

# THE GATEWAY

volume XCIII number 26 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.gateway.ualberta.ca ♦ thursday, 8 january, 2004



**BACK TO THE GRINDSTONE** Student Justin Brown peruses the shelves at the University Bookstore in SUB yesterday for an English textbook.

SHAWN BENBOW

## Int'l Centre offers free tuition abroad

COSANNA PRESTON  
Associate News Editor

If you've ever wanted to study abroad but have held back because of money, the International Centre may have an offer you can't turn down.

For the second year, the centre is offering free tuition and fees to select schools around the world that have a formal exchange agreement. The funding is available via a very simple scholarship form at the International Centre. Barry Tonge, the Education Abroad Coordinator for the centre, is hopeful that the new funding will help target the accessibility issue at the University.

"The focus of [the award] is to both recognize the students that are interested in the world around them or those that are interested in going out and expanding their horizons, but also to recognize the barriers that there are to accessibility," said Tonge.

"We want to see bright students [apply] who are interested in the world around them but are also struggling financially, so going abroad just might not be in the cards otherwise."

PLEASE SEE SCHOLARSHIP • PAGE 2

## Martin parody website at legal odds with PM

CHRISTOPHER HAZOU  
The Link

MONTREAL (CUP)—Concordia graduate Rob Maguire was almost sued by Canada's new Prime Minister, and he couldn't be happier.

"It's been an interesting Christmas ride," a clearly thrilled Maguire said. "The amount of media coverage has been absolutely insane."

Maguire is one of the co-founders of the uberCulture Collective, and one of the creators of the Halifax-based website paulmartintime.ca, which bills itself as "your source for critical news, analysis and parody of our recently unselected prime minister."

A few days before Christmas, Maguire's colleague Dru Oja Jay received a phone call from the Liberal party of Canada's webmaster.

It informed him that the Prime Minister's lawyers were unhappy with the similarities between paulmartintime.ca, and Paul Martin's official website, paulmartintimes.ca.

The next day they received an e-mail from a Liberal party lawyer charging them with "collective and individual infringement of my client's copyright in relation to the form and content of its website, www.paulmartintimes.ca."

They were given five days to make the demanded changes or face legal action.

The e-mail noted that "though my client does not, for a moment, question your Constitutionally guaranteed right to express your opinions, you have failed to take account of the fact that the laws of this country also require that this right be exercised within a lawful framework ..."

**"It's been an interesting Christmas. The amount of media coverage has been absolutely insane."**

ROB MAGUIRE,  
WEBSITE CO-FOUNDER

"You cannot resort to the entitlement to free speech in a manner whereby my client's proprietary interests are infringed upon."

Most legal threats aren't greeted so warmly, but for Maguire and the others behind paulmartintime.ca, the potential free publicity was a welcome gift.

"We figured our best bet was to go public," Maguire said.

PLEASE SEE PARODY • PAGE 3

## Concrete toboggans to descend on nation's capital

CATLIN CRAWSHAW  
Associate News Editor

A team of 43 Hawaiian-shirted U of A students are destined for snowy Ottawa to start their concrete toboggan in this year's Great Northern Concrete Toboggan Race.

The Great Northern Concrete Toboggan Race (GNCTR) offers civil engineering students an opportunity to apply classroom concepts to the real world. The race was conceived in 1974 when the Alberta Concrete Institute (ACI) expressed interest in sponsoring an event similar to the American concrete canoe race.

This year's team has adopted a Hawaiian theme, and will attend in the event from 4-8 February donned in tropical costume. While 43 students are involved in the construction, design and fundraising for the project, only ten of the team members will actually get to race the sled at the event.

Last year, the U of A team came in twelfth place; team captain Jan Cracknell is hoping to improve that standing this year.

"Unfortunately, last year we didn't do that great. On race day, because of how the run was, our sled was bouncing and the brake set off before it was supposed to. We stopped really fast, but we stopped before the finish line."

PLEASE SEE SLED • PAGE 3



Students Joleen Mazurat and Lukasz Kultys with part of the toboggan.

SHAWN BENBOW



**13** This weekend the annual Antifreeze battle of the bands will be waged at the Powerplant. Who will win?  
Nierguy? Snic? Only time will tell!  
Read today's A&E.

### Inside

**News Opinion** 1-3  
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### Outside

**Thursday** Flurries, no dance-off without the Highland Minister; High-4, Low-16  
**Friday** Sun and cloud, hungry? Summon the Minister of Devilish Eggs; High-4, Low-16  
**Saturday** Flurries, raise the roof, Minister of Part-ay; High-8, Low-13  
**Sunday** Cloud and sun, keep up the good work! Minister of Naptime; High-12, Low-18  
Source: Environment Canada



### From the archives

On 7 January, 1984, CSFR officially went back on the air after over four years of technical problems and governmental delays. The move from AM to FM was initially opposed by Gary McGowan, station manager in 1979. However, a new station manager in 1980 laid most of the groundwork to "go FM." Four years later, final approval was finally given by the CRTC, and a radio transmitter finally arrived from California. Then-current station manager Colin Kaylor didn't think CSFR's programming would compete too much with Edmonton's other radio stations, but, as the Gateway put it, "Now if your ears tire of too much Def Leopard (sic) on 89.7 or of hearing Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers on K-Lite, there is an alternative."

1984



**19** They are hump-bots. They are from Sextaculon. They can probably put their arms back on. You can't. That's right. Humpbotts. Sextaculon. Randic Wit Spectaculon.

## THE GATEWAY

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## Centre hopes to award funding to almost half of applicants

SCHOLARSHIP • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The funding initiative comes at a key time for students wanting to partake in an exchange. The first exchange application deadline is fast approaching on 1 February, but Tonge notes that the beauty of the award is that students will know prior to the exchange application deadline if they have the funding, which can be a major deciding factor for some.

"Some people will go [on an exchange] regardless, but there is a number that just don't have the money to go," Brian Stevenson, the Associate Vice-President International of the centre, was supportive of the initiative. He said the University had little trouble getting behind Tonge's proposal last year, as it was an innovative and affordable way to support internationalism amongst students.

"I certainly didn't have many reservations. Unlike some other universities in Canada, we do not have big endowments or a government program to help students go and study

abroad. It was an innovative way of trying to help students to go abroad," said Stevenson.

"It is one of our key strategic initiatives to be international and it is very important for our students to get international exposure and experience, so they can learn other cultures and learn other languages."

The decision process for the awards will have to be fast, according to Tonge. The deadline has been extended to 23 January and Tonge hopes to notify students by 25 January if they will receive a scholarship. Tonge said he and his committee would essentially drop everything for two days to process the applications.

According to Sheryllyn Trompeter, the Education Abroad programmer at U of A International, students have a good chance of receiving a scholarship.

There was almost a 50 per cent success rate last year, the first year the scholarship's were offered, and Tonge hopes to award approximately the same amount this year.



SENDING STUDENTS ABROAD Barry Tonge of the International Centre.

## CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Jake Troughton

## TAG TEAM MUG THEFT

On 26 November at around 7am, a male and a female entered a HUB mall retailer. The male gave a long, complicated order to the clerk, while the female took advantage of the distraction and stole a coffee mug.

Other similar incidents have been reported. The male is described as a six-foot-tall Caucasian, about 55 years old, with grey-white hair, a red mustache and a black tattoo on the left arm. The female is about 35 years old and 5'4" with long blonde hair wearing a red ski jacket. She was described as well-groomed.

## BIG BANG ON THE FARM

Around 7am on 27 November, campus 5-0 received a report of a gunshot at the Parklands Farm. Campus Security and EPS responded and checked the area, but discovered no evidence of a discharged firearm. It is believed that a transformer may have been responsible for the loud noise.

## SHOPLIFTER REQUIRES MORE PRACTICE

On 29 November at 11:40am, an attendant in HUB mall reported a female attempting to shoplift. The employee intervened and recovered the stolen property. The suspect then apologized, explaining that it was her first time. She left the area before officers arrived. She is described as a 5'2" 45-year-old white female, wearing a long rusty-brown jacket and carrying a white plastic grocery bag.

## FIRE IN DENTIST'S PHARM

On 5 December at 7:30pm, a fire alarm went off in the Dentistry Pharmacy Centre. Campus Security and the Edmonton Fire Department attended and discovered smoke coming from a room on the fifth floor. A printer and a typewriter had overheated and ignited, causing a small blaze. Three panes of glass were broken to vent the room. There were no injuries.

## LRT ASSAULT

On 4 December at 1am a female was reportedly grabbed by a male near the LRT. Campus Security conducted a search of the area but did not find the suspect and is still investigating the assault. The suspect is a 5'2" dark-skinned male in his 70s, with short gray hair shaved on the sides and back, and was carrying several

grocery bags. Anyone with information is asked to call Campus Security.

## HAVE A HEART, AND A BRAIN

Sometime between 28 November and 1 December, two anatomical models, a brain and a heart, were stolen from the East Wing of the Van Vleet Centre. The models have a total value of \$1000.

## RUNNING AROUND FROM HOME

On 8 December around 2:30pm, two young males in Rutherford Library were soliciting pledges for a children's charity run they claimed to be participating in. Officers in the area determined that the men were youths under house arrest. Campus security spoke to the youths' supervisors and returned them home.

## DRAWING ATTENTION

On 11 December at 3:40pm, Campus Security received reports of a male shouting at students in the SUB food court. Officers located the man in a washroom on the main floor and identified him. He had an extensive criminal record, was on probation and was found to be in possession of stolen property. The suspect was arrested, taken to Campus Security, and turned over to EPS.

## PERVERT GETS AWAY

On 13 December at 8:30am, Campus

Security assisted EPS in search of a male who was reportedly masturbating at the south end of the High Level bridge. The suspect was not located. He is Caucasian, about 40 years old and 5'7", wearing a light blue coat.

## VOLEURS VOLENTES ARTICLES

On 1 January, numerous suits in the Faculté St Jean student residence were broken into by unknown suspects. A great deal of property was stolen, including stereos, CDs, and guitars. Campus Security is still investigating the thefts. Students returning to the residence following the break are asked to take a close look around and report any additional thefts to Campus Security.

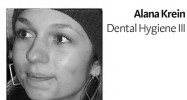
## BE CAREFUL CALLING OVERSEAS

Since 30 October, 88 false 911 calls have been made by people misdialing while attempting to call overseas from campus phones. Anyone making international calls from campus should remember that the proper procedure is to dial 116, then your authorization code, then 9 and the number being called. Dialers should not dial 9 before 116, as these calls are being directed to 911 Emergency. If 911 is dialed by mistake, the caller should acknowledge the error rather than hanging up, as emergency resources are being diverted to investigate these false calls.

## STREETERS

If you're regretting your Christmas indulgences or other aspects of 2003, now is the time for a fresh start.

Did you make a New Year's resolution for 2004?

Samir Lallani  
Psychology IIIAlana Krain  
Dental Hygiene IIIMathew Stevens  
Computer  
Engineering I/  
Arts IAlexis Derosier  
Science II

Well, during the holidays I became a skinny fat man. I lost some weight, but I seemed to get fatter here [in my belly]. So, my goal is to move all that weight here, so I have a bigger chest and broader shoulders.

Yes, to start exercising every day.

Actually, I suppose I have. And that's to be more true to myself. Because engineering sucks and I've decided to switch into arts and start following my heart instead of that almighty wailing dollar sign.

Yes, it was to stop smoking because it's bad for you. Everybody should have a resolution, so I thought I'd use that as mine.

Compiled and photographed by Caitlin Crowshaw and Cosanna Preston

## Toboggan race celebrating its 30th anniversary

SEED • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"When you do that there's big penalties. So we only ended up in twelfth place," Cracknell explained.

"Two years ago in Winnipeg we came in second, so we're hoping to get first this year in celebration of the [event's] 30th anniversary."

The sled, which can weigh as much as 300 pounds and travel up to 50 km/h, will be shipped to Ottawa within the next couple of weeks without ever having made contact with snow. Due to time constraints, testing the actual toboggan isn't always possible, according to Cracknell.

"We built a wooden model this

year, to figure out a bunch of the problems with the brakes and A-frames and to find out if it works, so we're hoping to actually take that out to Connor's hill one day and test it and see what we can expect to go wrong on race day. Then we can fix the problems ahead of time."

The team will be judged by its race time, but will also be judged by a number of other criteria, including its technical display, safety, and the amount of spirit shown by team members at the event. For this reason, a team size of 43 may bode well for U of A competitors.

Team captain David Mathew

explained that while racers are not allowed to wear seatbelts, injuries at the event are minor.

"People do fly out of sleds, it's not unheard of, but everyone's bundled up and helmeted," he assured. "Usually there's no serious injuries."

According to Cracknell, helmets and neck braces are worn, and other safety precautions are taken to protect sleds. At the bottom of the race course, a pile of snow with hay bales guarantees that sleds come to a stop in the event that brakes fail."

This year's team, calling itself the "U of LxI," will race against eleven other teams from across Canada.



**MIXING A MASTERPIECE** Civil engineering student John Reid mixes cement for the concrete toboggan.

SHAWN BENBOW

## Dalhousie may punish noisy students

SEAN PATRICK SULLIVAN  
Atlantic Bureau

FREDERICTON (CUP)—Dalhousie University students living off-campus have two choices: behave, or risk losing your campus job, scholarships, or right to participate in extracurricular activities.

The university in Halifax, Nova Scotia, introduced a tough policy last week that targets off-campus students. The school has asked police to relay "as much information as possible" regarding students and addresses that have a history of unruly behaviour.

Students who live at problem addresses have been sent a letter telling them to calm down, or face the consequences.

The letter cites dismissal from campus employment, withdrawal or refusal of scholarships, bursary or other financial assistance, and removal from extracurricular programs as possible consequences for causing disturbances in the community.

Review of complaints will be kept on file so they are available for future reference, including when letters of recommendation are requested. Expulsion will be used as a last resort.

Eric McKee, Dalhousie's vice-president of student services, said the policy is primarily meant as a warning.

"Our hope is it never comes to the point where we have to withdraw priv-

ileges," he said, adding that it was brought in because of a greater number of complaints than in the past.

Warm weather throughout the fall and class cancellations due to Hurricane Juan have led to more parties than usual.

**"These deteriorating relations between a handful of rowdy students and their neighbours are poisoning the environment for everyone..."**

ERIC MCKEE,  
DALHOUSIE VICE-PRESIDENT OF  
STUDENT SERVICES

"These deteriorating relations between a handful of rowdy students and their neighbours, I think, are poisoning the environment for everyone who lives there. The majority of students aren't a problem," McKee said.

The letter says complaints include vandalism, excessive noise, rudeness, littering, drunkenness, and other abusive and disruptive behaviour. McKee argues that the university has a responsibility for its students, even if they live off-campus.

"We facilitate [the students'] presence in the neighborhood through our off-campus housing listings services, and frankly, we think we do have a responsibility for the impact of our university on the neighborhood community," he said.

"It's important to us that there be a harmonious relationship."

Andrew Erskine is a math and computer science student at Dalhousie. He thinks policing the neighborhoods is a job for the police, not the university.

"It doesn't seem that the university has any jurisdiction off-campus. I don't think that Dal should be getting involved in the first place," said Erskine.

"I don't see how they can enforce it," he continued. "I'm not too worried."

Erskine said students have been relatively quiet about the issue.

Glenn Matthews, the housing mediation officer at the University of Western Ontario, thinks it will be very difficult for Dalhousie to enforce some aspects of the policy.

"Theoretically, the university could stop students from playing on varsity teams or using certain services," he said. "But as far as expulsion or taking away scholarships and things like that, I think there would be a little bit of a problem."

McKee explained that proper investigations would be conducted before off-campus students are punished.

## Site admins hesitant to comply with Liberal demands

PARDOY • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"First thing the next morning, the phone started ringing. From that point on, for two days, it did not stop."

In the meantime, they decided to make some changes to the website. "We complied with their demands to the extent that we were going to, which wasn't all that much," Maguire explains.

"We removed any original written work. For instance, originally we had spoofed Paul Martin's logo and the

Liberal party's logo. Although we were still quite certain that was covered under the fair use provisions of the copyright act, we figured if it was a matter of yanking those things it will save us a big legal battle."

It seems the negative publicity may have been enough to scare off Prime Minister Paul Martin's legal watchdogs.

After repeated attempts to contact Martin's lawyers to inform them of the changes made to paulmartintime.ca,

Maguire was told by a reporter from CTV that an official notice from the Prime Minister's Office had said the suit was being dropped.

As of press time, this had yet to be confirmed.

"The situation as it stands right now is somewhat uncertain from a legal point of view," Maguire said.

"It's quite unprofessional, it's quite immature, and I'm kind of embarrassed that this is representing our government."



### Discover Neuroscience in Calgary

The Department of Neuroscience at the University of Calgary is holding a National Competition to identify students for an **all-expense-paid trip March 10-14, 2004** to visit with group members and prospective graduate supervisors. **Hurry - the competition closes January 19, 2004.** For more information see: <http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~neuro/recruit.html>  
**See you in Calgary!**

### The permanent solution for unwanted hair

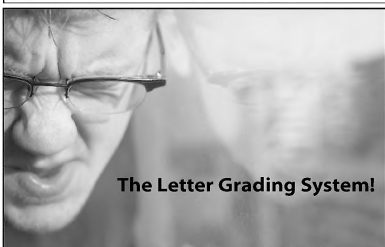
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## Biometrics a guise for racial profiling

IN THE WEEKS FOLLOWING 11 SEPTEMBER, if someone's skin wasn't white, they were likely detained by airport officials, something that was at the time referred to as "random screening." If someone was Muslim they were almost certainly detained. In fact, a friend's father was detained flying into Colorado for an annual business trip that he's attended for the past 15 years. The only discernable reason for his detention was that his passport says he was born in Jordan—a Middle Eastern country. This supposed screening process angered many, but when referred to as "racial profiling," American officials denied that such a thing was occurring.

The US got over this petty stage fairly fast. Dropping the screening of likely-harmless air travellers, they moved on to bigger and better things, like invading Iraq under false pretences. The screening eased off but was never completely removed.

Now, the crumbling random screening process has been revamped with a vengeance, and they are even dropping their little denial act. The new biometrics system, which consists of high-tech digital fingerprinting and photographing, is quaintly named US-VISIT. The travel advisory on the Canadian government's website clearly listed the 27 countries that are exempt from the screening process. Canada is among them, as are most European countries including France and the United Kingdom. These are America's White Anglo Saxon Protestant (WASP) friends, and except for France's small outburst over Iraq, they have posed little threat in the past; until recently, that is.

Somewhat, the UK and France made it onto this exemption list even though the top security and terrorist concerns over the past few months have been primarily from the UK, France, and Mexico. Mexico is coincidentally the only non-WASP threat of the three and the only one of the three not on the exempt list.

However, landed immigrants in Canada are not necessarily safe, either. Nationality is apparently what matters, so if a Kenyan, for example, has lived in Canada for 30 years, it has no bearing at all. His country of birth is not on the list, so he is not exempt. American officials should just call a spade a spade; this is yet another case of the US conducting racial profiling. The States claims the new measures will expedite commerce. And it likely will for a few business people not from a country on the exemption list, but for the most part this is nothing but hassle for people's whose only fault is being born in a country the US doesn't trust.

Anyone who wants to perpetrate an act of terror will find a way to get around security barriers no matter how sophisticated. This has been proven time and time again. Sure, some minor players are caught, but more often it is innocent travellers who are detained on unfounded information or flat-out bias.

Tom Ridge, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security stated in the department's press release that it is important to uphold the American ideals and its "spirit of welcoming foreign visitors."

Funny, it doesn't seem very welcoming to arrive in a country and be subjected to screening while other equally foreign people are free to simply walk on by.

COSANNA PRESTON  
Associate News Editor

## School frustrations

WHAT FOLLOWS IS A TALE of injustice, education and the reality that there is a vast workload and marking discrepancy between various U of A faculties.

Last semester, I was enrolled in two classes. I attended every session of one class, took a phone book-sized volume of notes and slaved away tirelessly in the lab. In the other, I showed up exactly four times: once to get the syllabus, twice for the midterms and once for the final exam.

So, imagine my surprise when, at the end of the term, I was awarded the exact same grade for both classes. Sure, I expect some classes to be harder than others, but shouldn't there at least be some semblance of congruity between the marking schemes of our fellow faculties? Apparently not.

HEATHER ADLER  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

## LETTERS

Lyle Oberg is ignoring students, as usual

I have to admit that I was both glad and surprised to see a letter from Learning Minister Lyle Oberg in the Gateway ("An open letter from Minister Lyle Oberg," 27 November). It's nice to see that there is still a shred of accountability left in the Klein government.

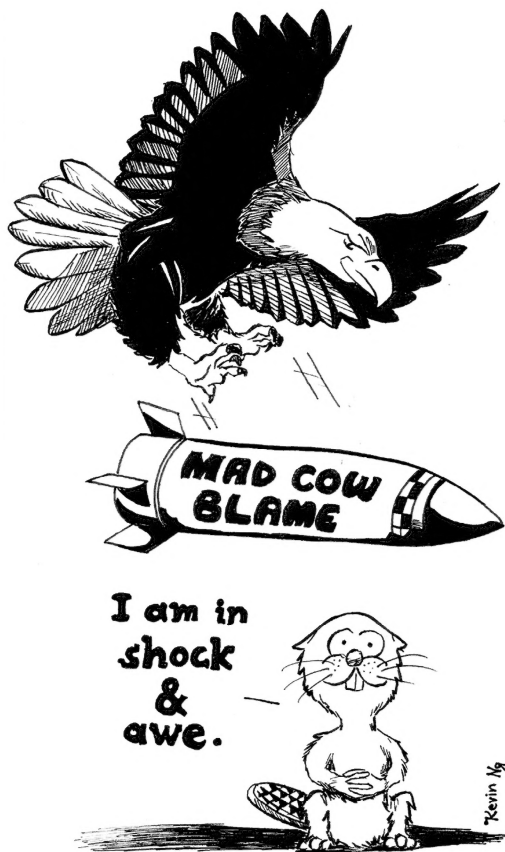
However, I was very disappointed with what Dr Oberg had to say. I'll pick it up where Dr Oberg claims "Bill 43 provides an opportunity to address concerns." With such a statement, one would expect a plausible solution to be brought forward, but sadly the Minister skips over that part and elects only to show us, the students, what the actual results will be, appropriate or not.

The closest possibility of a proposed solution to the rising tuition problem is to "make sure tuition increases are predictable." Wow, I'm amazed. That's some great initiative on the part of the province, solving rising tuition problems by making the increases predictable. If Dr Oberg believes that predictability is the best way to accommodate students, I ask which is more predictable: doing some math based on the proudly-mentioned Alberta Consumer Price Index, or me looking at my fee assessment for this year and knowing I'll be paying that exact amount next fall? If you think predictability is the way to go, Dr Oberg, then freeze tuition rates.

Next, the Minister proclaims that there were "concerns expressed regarding the accountability of student associations and the funds they control." First, I'd like to point out that there are ten times more concerns expressed about the accountability of the provincial government and the funds it controls, yet there seems no new legislation supervising that. Second, I would like to know who expressed these concerns, because it certainly wasn't students or their unions. Therefore, I completely reject this statement that insinuates students cannot manage their own affairs. If my SU ends up being corrupt, not only will I know about it faster than you will, Dr Oberg, but I will be taking action long before you set up a committee to review the situation. The government doesn't mess around with other professional unions, so why should it meddle in the affairs of students' unions?

In conclusion, Dr Oberg states that "postsecondary education is one of the best investments anyone can make." If this is the case, then I guess "anyone" should include the government. When 20 per cent of Canadians with university degrees contribute 35 per cent of taxes, that indicates to me that further education should also be an investment on the part of the government. When rising costs restrict capable students from educating themselves the government is just screwing itself out of future tax money. The money they invest now would be repaid many times over in the form of taxes later on.

It's time the government stopped being obstreperous about funding higher education and that Dr Oberg



put money where his pen is.

GUILLAUME LAROCHE  
Music!

### Libraries should keep books closer to campus

Perhaps I'm starting this semester off on the wrong foot, but I already have qualms about our fine institution. It's the first week back after Christmas break and readings are already piling up, not that I intend to read them any time soon.

I thought I'd get a headstart; however, by accumulating the books I'll need to read later on. So, I'm in the library, where I'm always out of bearings, trying to find a certain book. There are a few copies of the particular novel I need, three from before 1960 and one from the 1980s. The latter seemed less battered and didn't smell as much of mildew as the others. Upon signing out the novel I soon found out to my disappointment that this particular book was on its way to becoming a resource reading. Although I tried my hardest to avoid it, I had to sign out a book printed forty years ago which looked like it had been read by every-

one and their neighbour.

There is a point to my long-winded tale: I wanted to know why all the newer editions of the same book that the U of A purchases, go directly to the book depository at the end of Whyte Avenue, instead of replacing the out-dated novels filling up the shelves.

Perhaps I am ignorant to the complexities of our library system. If anyone would care to clarify this confusing phenomenon, please enlighten me.

HANNAH STOMP  
Arts II

### Unfair to paint everyone with the same brush

I have to agree with Lucas Habib's letter in the 6 January edition of the Gateway ("Alberta's reputation justified"). Alberta does have a problem with a number of people who are classic rednecks. These people refuse to have dealings with certain other groups because they "think differently." These people believe the universe revolves around their little corner of the world and everything should be done to accommo-

date them. They believe that their beliefs are the only correct ones, and denigrate those who disagree. Since they have all the political and economic power, they see little need to change the system. There is no room for anyone in the political table with them in control.

These are the classic symptoms of a redneck. However, I don't believe in making blanket statements, such as portraying everyone from one region as having a monolithic belief system. I think there must be some reasonable and honest people in Ontario.

PAUL HEDDERPHIL  
Education II

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to managing@gateway.alberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author; to be considered for publication.



# Might as well not go for a soda



ADAM  
ROZENHART

I didn't used to be addicted to Coke. In fact, before coming to the U of A, I was more or less soft-drink neutral. Sure, I'd have the occasional carbonated beverage, but my allegiance to any particular flavour of cola was nonexistent. But that all changed when I came to school here and discovered that our Students' Union signed an exclusivity deal with Coca Cola in exchange for inexpensive soft drink prices on campus and a significant amount of money in the form of scholarships, among other things. When that happened, I found myself drinking nothing but Coca Cola products, and I was slowly but surely becoming rabid about my forced preference. I've even had arguments with friends who attend U of C—which signed an exclusivity deal with Pepsi—as to which brand was superior in flavour and quality.

Meanwhile, under my nose, Canadians got fatter. So fat, in fact, that there has been some outcry regarding the pervasiveness of and easy-access to delicious sodas in our schools. And it seems that someone is finally taking notice of this outcry, according to the Globe and Mail, the Canadian soft-drink industry has said it will voluntarily remove pop from elementary and junior high schools in Ontario and Alberta. And while this may prevent severe diabetes in the "forever young" generation, it's not going to

"We've heard it a thousand times: 'may be harmful to children,' 'keep out of reach of children,' and even 'not suitable for children.' And while it's true there are many things an adult can endure that a child cannot, a lot of things harmful to children are equally harmful to adults."

be enough to prevent an eventual Big Mac-induced strain on the nation's healthcare system.

Gerard Kennedy, Ontario's education minister, was quoted as saying, "[This] is obviously just one small part of an overall health-schools policy." Perhaps the minister was stating the obvious. But if the general health of Canadians is an ongoing problem among not only children, but adults as well, why aren't these standards being applied in other public buildings, like, for example, hospitals? The simple answer would probably be that the soft drink industry couldn't possibly afford to remove sweet carbonation from elementary and junior high schools, as well as from high schools, universities and hospitals, without significant financial repercussions. I suppose this is a relevant and important concern in our cash-driven society. So why not force them to remove their products from public places and replace them with something healthier?

We've heard it a thousand times: "may be harmful to children," "keep out of reach of children," and even "not suitable for children." And while it's true there are many things an adult can endure that a child cannot, a lot of things harmful to children are equally harmful to adults. Take, for example, Edmonton's infamous smoking bylaw; restaurants were forced to either ban smoking in their establishments or

refuse to serve anyone under eighteen. Obviously, this bylaw draws on the assumption that 18-year-olds, being the legal drinking/voting age, can decide for themselves whether or not they should place themselves in an unhealthy environment, whereas an eleven-year-old cannot. But, given that some people are stupid enough to drive drunk, I don't think we can really count on Joe Citizen to make the right decision for himself, especially when Joe Citizen was largely responsible for Edmonton's pride and joy, the Whyte Avenue Riot.

When drafting public health policies, the government needs to realize that what's good for the goose is indeed good for the goose; just because children can choose to buy or not buy a bottle of coke for lunch does not logically follow that they will make the healthy choice. And in a system where everyone is required to pay, through taxes to Alberta Health, for healthcare, it is in the public's interest to apply a certain standard of public health in the form of bylaws and policies applicable to everyone.

Until people learn to treat their bodies, and the bodies of those around them better, our healthcare system will be continually strained. In the meantime, I'll be under this pile of Coke cans, licking their sweet nectar that's dripped onto the floor.

# Family isn't a priority for all women



SARAH  
HANASYK

Like most folks over this holiday season, I found myself inescapably surrounded by the high-pitched squeals of hedonistic glee over Santa's generous bounty. I had almost forgotten about the cleverly crafted ways in which Mattel, Hasbro, and Sony can create an obsessive need in children for toys more expensive and pointlessly flashy than Jennifer Lopez. And, as always, with every little roll of the eyes or stifled arm-raise in reflective spanking motion at the shrieks of children under ten, I wished repeatedly that the game "who can go the longest without making a sound?" still worked on them.

Thus, I hedged my irritations by making sarcastic comments about how the military should use tiny small children to flush out the enemy, but I always got the ever-popular response, "just you wait until you have children!" I normally just ignore statements like these which I assume my parents use to give themselves some sick, twisted sense of personal satisfaction of knowing that their children will someday be tortured just as they once were. This time, however, I rebutted with my semi-serious belief that I probably won't be having children, so the joke's on them. Though I use this statement more just to shut them up than to instigate any form of meaningful conversation about my ideologies as a "grownup," I wondered

"Though I currently have no desire for my own personal litter of crap factories, I don't know how I'll feel in five or ten years, and I don't believe that this should be stated as an eventuality. If you're going to threaten me with misbehaving child karma, Mom and Dad, it should be an, 'if,' not a 'when I have kids' threat."

why everyone is so quick to assume childbearing is the natural progression into womanhood.

While I'm hesitant to use the moniker "feminist," I guess somewhere nestled between my love for Transformers and Kevin Smith films is the conviction that pronatalist attitudes such as these should be falling away as we progress through the 21st century. Gone are the days where having children was essential to the survival of the household, or even essential for personal fulfillment as a generative member of humanity. But stereotypes still exist that see voluntary childlessness in women as caused by work-driven careerists, selfish egoists, or embittered ultra-feminists, whereas careers are rarely central to a woman's sense of personal fulfillment. However, studies show highly qualified women are more likely to remain childless, which may reflect to some degree how time investment may be directed more into career versus family goals.

Most women who have chosen not to have children are deserving of our respect, for they have done so out of an acknowledgement of the responsibilities family life creates. If children are born, they must be given top priority in terms of emotional and financial investment, and those who come to the realization that this will be a difficult task to uphold should be

praised for their foresight and convictions on children's well-being. In some respects, these are the people who care for children too much to have them. There are too many unfit parents in this world to deny admiration for those who want to avoid this plight.

Historically, there has been this feminine construct stating that children are an inevitable part of our lives, and those who deny this are looked down upon as selfish or undesirable as nudes. Though I currently have no desire for my own personal litter of crap factories, I don't know how I'll feel in five or ten years, and I don't believe that this should be stated as an eventuality. If you're going to threaten me with misbehaving child karma, Mom and Dad, it should be an, "if," not a "when I have kids" threat.

Fertility issues aside, there are many credible reasons why some women choose not to have children. An unquestioned desire for motherhood has always been seen as natural, but the number of childless women are increasing and will slowly create a new discourse on the concept of femininity and womanhood.

Besides, I know that if I decide to have kids, they'll be wonderfully behaved angels who'll love sharing and voluntarily doing chores without my request.

## INTERNET STUDY OF ALCOHOL AND AGGRESSION

Researchers at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in London, Ontario are conducting an internet study of Canadian university student drinking and aggression. The goal of this research is to learn more about factors that lead to aggression when alcohol is involved.

Six universities across Canada have been recruited for this study. A random sample of 1500 undergraduate students from the University of Alberta will receive an e-mail invitation to participate in this 30-minute study. Please watch for this e-mail invitation letter during the middle of January.

Participants of this study will be entered in a draw for one of two Canada Savings Bonds.



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**Nomination Procedures:** A letter of nomination signed by at least 10 undergraduate students plus any supporting material which is thought to be appropriate should be submitted to the Chair of the Award for Excellent Teaching Committee for each nominee. The appropriate science department will ensure that all nominations are fully documented before submission to this committee.

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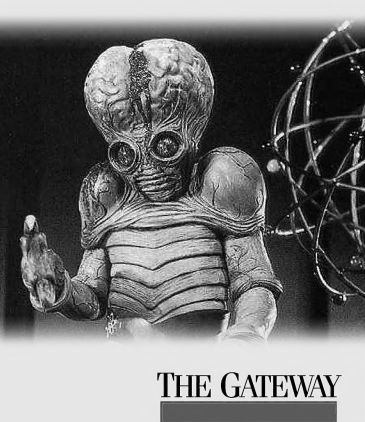
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### Contact the Chair of the Faculty of Science Award for Excellent Teaching Committee:

Dr. W. J. Page, Associate Dean  
Faculty of Science  
CW223 Biological Sciences Building  
DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: JANUARY 23, 2004

## Bleeargh! Ugh! Wuuuu-oooooghuh!

Hey! What the hell is THAT thing? Don't worry, it's just Xax 5.3, our new Managing Editor. He's replaced Adam because he managed to eat him by accident, somehow. Anyway, Xax 5.3 commands all of you puny Earth-hatching zygote flesh-bags to volunteer for us, immediately! We'd hate to have any more accidents.



THE GATEWAY

## THE BURLAP SACK

While linguistic brutality has become so widespread that the total destruction of the apostrophe has become an appealing option to weary wordsmiths and their bleeding eyes, there are certain abusers of the English language who deserve to be singled out for the most vicious punishment imaginable. I speak of the people who like to pretend that words don't mean things, and specifically those reckless labelers who eat fish, or even chicken, yet insist on calling themselves vegetarians.

Regardless of one's philosophical position on vegetarianism, it should be clear to all but the most pretentious PhD that the word "vegetarian" means something. Just as someone who drinks alcohol isn't a teetotaler, or someone who has had sex isn't a virgin, people who eat animals are not vegetarians. Period.

Words are very useful devices, what with all the reading, writing and talking that many of us are wont to do from

time to time—activities that would be somewhat more difficult without these attractive collections of letters. But it's not just their undeniable pretenses that makes words so useful; it's that they have meanings that allow us to communicate things.

When meanings are abused, real communication is rendered impossible. Actual vegetarians are now routinely forced to patiently explain that, no, that chicken sandwich is not acceptable cuisine for them, all because of those reckless hoodlums running rampant through our conversations. No doubt they spend their nights holding dictionary-burnings in "Satanic temples."

Such crimes against language are unacceptable. Would we allow people to call themselves feminists if they happen to think women shouldn't be allowed to be doctors? Hell no.

JAKE TROUGHTON

*The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.*

## Dave Alexander's TOP TEN

Reasons you're at the pet store

- 10 Seeking cast members for getting a stage production of Frogger. Still have a few words to say to a certain belgic parakeet that needs to shut its goddamn beak.
- 8 Got private business with catnip dealer, so fuck off.
- 7 Need four and 20 blackbirds for ambitious pie recipe.
- 6 Looking for some of those playful Penthouse Pets you've been hearing about.
- 5 Trying to convince angrier cashier to reenact the Monty Python dead parrot sketch just one more time.
- 4 Buying a dozen gerbils and some Habitrail tubing for Richard Gere theme party.
- 3 Just felt like yelling at some news, that's all.
- 2 Got a hankerin' for some puppy love... specifically terrier.
- 1 Kids didn't find clownfish quite so amusing after it died.

# 'Media sketches' must not be taken at face value

Image manipulation is seemingly an increasingly common practice



AARON  
BRAATIN

Last Thanksgiving, the US military was able to smuggle two turkeys into Iraq for the troops: one for use as a centerpiece, and one to hold said centerpiece. The media was rife with photos of George W. Bush serving up a turkey spread that turned out to be a prop while the troops dined on the usual military rations. For me, this media stunt was the final straw. Forget the Jessica Lynch rescue and weapons of mass destruction: Thanksgiving turkey? Is nothing sacred?

Does it matter that the turkey was a fake? It was a prop used for improving the ambience back at the military base, which is understandable. However, many mainstream accounts initially passed off the turkey as real—as if anyone was getting an actual Thanksgiving meal. While most media sources later corrected the mistake, one wonders how many other important details have been overlooked. These wartime vignettes could be termed "media sketches": the co-managed products of the military-media complex aimed at managing opinions. In other words, it's propaganda.

Three important media sketches include the fat-nosed Osama video, the

Saddam Statue toppling and Saddam's "green dates" video stills. Thinking back to 2001, the fat-nosed Osama video is the one where Osama, looking like Cuba Gooding Jr. in a dirty Santa beard, is pictured smashing his hands together and saying "plane!" in garbled Arabic. That it "happened" to be found in some Taliban video cache seemed lost on overly exuberant media whores hoping to find the smoking gun to implicate Osama in 11 September. This video is a key component in the War on Terror, as it is where Osama takes full credit for the WTC crashes. But is it real?

Just as journalists began to question the shape of this alternate Osama's nose and imply that this footage could be staged by the CIA, the media began to allocate its attention to different breaking news. Still, the idea remains that Osama took responsibility for 11 September, even with the possibility that it wasn't him in this video.

Other wartime media sketches concern the fall and eventual capture of Saddam Hussein. Remember the footage of the toppling of Saddam's statue? Looking back on it, the camera footage never pans out far enough to see how many Iraqis were actually present, even when Saddam's head was dragged behind a vehicle. Such panoramic photos are a rarity on the Internet, but the images that do exist show just how few people answered the casting call to cheer their liberators on as they felled the dictator's likeness.

Within hours of Saddam's capture

this December, the conspiracy theories began to fly in the Middle East concerning two details in the Associated Press photo by Hefem Lukatsky showing two US soldiers boating the concrete core from Saddam's spiderhole. In the background of the photo there's some meat curing on a rope and green dates hanging from a palm. Meat curing is typically done in the late summer months whereas the date harvest occurs in the latter half of the summer or early fall.

Judging from the opinions in the Middle East, that species of date is not a late-ripening date, but an earlier ripening Kadrawy date, which grows smaller, native to Basra. On the other hand, this is the Hilali date, which is said to ripen in late season. Either way, dates tend to rot by November. The "green dates" theory could be a smoking gun that places Saddam's capture months earlier, thereby implying his capture was politically timed, or it could be merely an irrelevant detail to obsess about, as it assumes Saddam was indeed captured rather than negotiated out of his spiderhole.

The jury's still out as to which species of date actually hangs in the background of Lukatsky's photo. Maybe details don't matter to military-media propagandists and consumers of wartime media infotainment. Unlike comedy sketches, media sketches place the joke on us. If these wartime media sketches are any indicator, I'd say Osama will show up just in time for the US election.

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Sat., Jan. 10, 2004; 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; 4-02 SUB  
Wed., Jan. 14, 2004; 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.; 4-02 SUB  
**Interview Skills for Students in Education**  
Sat., Jan. 17, 2004; 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; 4-02 SUB  
Wed., Jan. 21, 2004; 3:30 - 6:00 p.m.; 4-02 SUB  
**Building A Teaching Portfolio**  
Sat., Jan. 10, 2004; 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.; 4-02 SUB  
Tues., Jan. 20, 2004; 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.; 4-02 SUB

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**Resume Writing**  
Thurs., Jan. 22, 2004; 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.; 2-100 SUB  
**Career Selection for Students in Science**  
Mon., Jan. 26, 2004; 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.; 2-100 SUB  
**Interview Skills**  
Thurs., Jan. 29, 2004; 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.; 4-02 SUB

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# Canada shouldn't support the finger-pointing United States



DAVID BERRY

Among the many things Paul Martin has "promised" to do in his undoubtedly long tenure as Prime Minister, strengthening our ties with the United States seems to be at, or near, the top of the list. And while it seems natural that we should want to be fairly close with our North American neighbour—not to mention the most powerful nation on earth—you have to wonder just how beneficial this friendship is, based on the States' recent track record when it comes to dealing with Canada.

Worst of all, you needn't look back very far to show just how neighbourly the Americans have been. In the most recent Mad Cow crisis, it took US officials a grand total of about 15 seconds to change that the cow in question originated in the Great White North. It was a special treat indeed to hear Canadian ranchers preaching tolerance and understanding in regards to the American version of the 2003 Mad Cow scare, mixed in with unfounded accusations from the State department blaming those same ranchers for causing the problem.

It should be pointed out that while results are not yet in, there does appear

to be a good chance that the cow was indeed from Canada. But it should also be said that the Americans aren't always so accurate in their snap judgments. When the blackouts hit the American Northeast and parts of Southern Ontario early this summer, American officials showed a similar amount of prudence when they immediately—as soon as the lights were on, that is—blamed the blackout on a fault in Canada's power grid. A formal investigation into the cause later found that the blackout originated in Ohio, which is suspiciously located in the United States.

**In the most recent Mad Cow crisis, it took US officials a grand total of about 15 seconds to change that the cow in question originated in the Great White North.**

These are, of course, but two examples. You could also point out the USA's frequent violations of NAFTA, most notably with the softwood lumber dispute, or the omission of Canada during George Bush's "thank-you" speech in the wake of 11 September, despite our efforts that ranged from humanitarian aid to serving as a waypoint to thousands of Americans stranded when numerous planes were grounded in

the aftermath. That is, if you were looking for more.

This constant abuse wouldn't be so bad, of course, if we weren't expected to remain faithfully by America's side through thick and thin. As showcased by their near outrage when we didn't follow them into Iraq, it seems as if they expect us to be their lapdog, treating us as they please and yet still expecting us to bring their slippers on command.

Even this expectation wouldn't be so bad if we didn't keep willingly submitting ourselves to it. With the exception of the aforementioned Iraq conflict, our showcases of ineptitude and fortitude when it comes to the US are few and far between. Our standard reaction is probably best typified by our handling of the softwood lumber issue. We threatened the US with economic sanctions for their clear breach of NAFTA, but ultimately kowtowed and accepted it.

Now, this isn't to say that the Americans do nothing but use us at their leisure, far from it. But it seems to me that a relationship whereby we are seen as a friendly yet sovereign nation and not just as an ally that must remain unconditionally loyal would benefit us quite a bit more than the current relationship. With that in mind, we can only hope Paul Martin's calls for closer ties with the Americans follows the meekly independent one we seem to be on with our recent actions and doesn't mean a return to fetching the slippers of a superpower that only pays attention to us as they see fit.

# The U of A should be more palatable than a dry, disappointing orange



GRAHAM LETTNER

"If groundbreaking changes have taken place over the past year in first-year analytical chemistry, then by all means upgrade the required texts. If not, changing editions will only serve to create stacks of useless texts and scores of irked and impoverished students."

Over the Christmas break, I was turned out of the house to pick up some mandarin oranges. Armed with a crisp ten dollar bill, I found myself in aisle five and in the midst of the classic economical debate of value. Would I rather have a box of run-of-the-mill Chinese oranges and five dollars back in my pocket, or a treat of also-ran succulent Japanese oranges, but at a price of seven dollars? It being Christmas, I splurged for the latter. It turns out the oranges were dry, even had a few seeds, and thus were a thorough disappointment.

You could liken it to the bait-and-switch of the University of Alberta. As the intellectual headquarters of Alberta and beyond, we are paying for what we are told is one of the top post-secondary educations in Canada. Yet here we are chomping down tasteless, pitiable fare being served up by our beloved University. Frankly, if we are going to pay \$4500+ for a box of oranges, those oranges should be some of the best we've ever tasted. Sadly, they're not.

But the formula for juicy goodness is not so complicated. It's simple and easily accomplished by an administration with an ear open to those whom it serves and a will to make real and constructive changes.

We can start by removing greed and stupidity as the motives for using a new edition of a textbook. If groundbreak-

ing changes have taken place over the past year in first-year analytical chemistry, then by all means, upgrade the required texts. If not, changing editions will only serve to create stacks of useless texts and scores of irked and impoverished students.

We should also be scouring the ivory towers to find a method of professor and course evaluations that are not so desultory and abstruse to the point of being insulting. Does "neutral" mean middle of the road, or "I have no opinion," or perhaps nothing at all? Is a scale of 1 (worst) to 10 (best) and a series of pertinent questions—like, "How would you rank the ability of the professor to motivate and create interest about the subject material?"—not a viable option?

Last spring, a second-year computing science student named Steven Kirkham devised an online tool called Bearcats to help students create their own timetables. The fact that this new program was dramatically better than any the University had to offer is shocking. The University's disgustingly slow and uncooperative effort to integrate Bearcats with Bearcats makes it disgraceful as well. That Bearcats is still, after a recent upgrade, an archaic chow instead of a simple task shows that the U of A has still not invested the necessary thought and effort into such a basic

and off-used student service.

Our semesters may contain three long months of class, but much of our final grade is based on one or two short weeks in December or April. The University knows this, and yet when finals week rears its ugly head, we are still faced with two examinations a day, or four exams in three days, or worse. Understanding that there are a myriad of different timetables from the thousands of students out there, the University needs to correct their foolish and ignorant planning of finals. It's the simple matter of smart scheduling for many, since a large number of students are in a set pattern of courses for their programs. Exams worth half of a final grade are already suspect in just what kind of measurement they provide given the many factors that can affect any student's performance in a short two-hour span. Heaping all of a student's exams into a 72-hour timeframe benefits no one.

The above points are not radical—most are not even costly. They are nonetheless clear steps for improving the taste and enjoyment of education for all university students. A competent and insightful administration would be one that would identify small steps forward, such as these, and take action upon them to increase the value of its produce: sweet, delicious oranges.

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- **Summer Work Search**  
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- **Writing a Personal Statement**  
Thursday, January 29, 2004;  
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- **Career Tips for First Year Students**  
Monday, February 2, 2004;  
12:05 - 12:50 p.m.
- **Strategies for Tapping the Hidden Job Market**  
Wednesday, February 4, 2004;  
12:05 - 12:50 p.m.
- **Employment Programs and Internships**  
Friday, February 6, 2004;  
12:05 - 12:50 p.m.
- **Putting Your B.Ed. to Work Outside of the Classroom**  
Wednesday, January 21, 2004;  
12:35 - 1:20 p.m.
- **Electronic/Scannable Resumes**  
Tuesday, January 20, 2004;  
12:35 - 1:20 p.m.
- **Applying to Graduate School**  
Thursday, January 22, 2004;  
12:35 - 1:20 p.m.
- **Developing a Personal Web Site to Find Work**  
Fri., Jan. 23, 2004; 12:05 - 12:50 PM

Presentation slides may be purchased for \$2.00 after each seminar.

Check out the web site for a listing for the entire term.  
[www.ualberta.ca/caps](http://www.ualberta.ca/caps)





# WELCOME TO THE STUDENT FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION CENTRE SUPPLEMENT

## WHAT WILL IT COST?

How much is your degree going to cost? Most students think about tuition, fees, and books when they think of their degree cost, but you still need to eat, sleep and get around. Living costs and extracurricular activities need to be included in the cost of a degree. There are also a multitude of on-campus temptations such as credit card applications, pizza, coffee, and ATMs.

### Academic Costs

When you are calculating your tuition costs for all four years, you should assume that tuition will increase every year. In 2003-04, a 3-credit course costs \$430.92. This is a 6.9% increase over 2002-03 costs. There are also costs for non-instructional fees such as student services, athletic and health fees, and Students' Union fees. The following is a chart depicting the estimated cost of a full course load for the next five years.

### Estimated Costs for four (or five) academic years

Year	Tuition	*Fees	Books	Total
2003-04	\$4309.20	\$473.30	\$1000 each year	\$5782.50
2004-05	\$4606.53	\$485.61		\$6092.14
2005-06	\$4924.39	\$498.23		\$6422.62
2006-07	\$5264.17	\$511.19		\$6775.36
(2007-08)	\$5627.40	\$524.48		\$7151.88

\*non-instructional fees

**4 years = \$25,072.<sup>62</sup>**

(This chart assumes 30 units of course weight a year and a 6.9% annual increase in tuition and a 5.9% annual increase in fees.)

Check out our website for our Undergraduate Educational Costs brochure to obtain detailed costs for each program.

### Living Costs

Students living at home should budget \$300 a month for expenses. That's \$9,600 for 4 academic years. This would include an allowance for clothing, personal care, food, transportation and medical costs. Students living away from home should budget \$800 a month or \$25,600 for 4 years. This would include an allowance for rent (based on shared accommodation), utilities, clothing, personal care, food, transportation and medical costs.

Also, these living cost estimates do not include things like fees for extra-curricular activities, costs incurred by going on exchanges, travelling, etc. You must make special concessions for these expenses in your financial plan.

Knowing how much you need to pay is the first step in finding ways to pay. Now you need to read that article on "how to pay".

## HOW TO PAY FOR A FOUR-YEAR DEGREE

When we go to university one of the greatest concerns, aside from marks and exams, is MONEY. Not how much will I earn when I graduate, but how am I going to come up with enough money to pay for my undergraduate degree so that I CAN graduate??? Fortunately with some planning, almost everything can be taken care of. There are numerous ways to finance an undergraduate degree and each method has its merits and pitfalls.

### The M&D Method

One of the methods to pay for an undergraduate degree is the M&D method, the ever familiar Mom and Dad. Some parents will have money set aside for their children's post secondary education. This secret stash may be a savings account with money set aside for you or things like trust funds and bonds.

However unless your parents own a money tree, it's unlikely that they will have \$50,000 ready to fund your entire education. This is especially the case if you have other siblings who are in post secondary as well or who are looking to enter. Most likely, your parents will be able to help you fund maybe the first year or two of schooling. So onward to other funding methods...

### Summer Jobs and Part Time Work

During the four months of summer, it's usually a good idea to find a job. That being said, the likelihood of all of us finding a desirable job that has good hours and pays \$20/hour is unrealistic. Not only is there high competition for the "good" jobs, most jobs that students are able to get average \$8.25/hour and most students will need to work more than one job to get a decent monthly wage.

Even with a great paying job, there are still expenses to be covered over the summer, such as rent, groceries, clothes (especially if your job requires a dress code) and of course fun stuff like vacations! All these expenses add up, and cut into your savings.

Many students also need to work over the school year in order to make ends meet or just to have some spending money. Many jobs that university students are able to get are in the hospitality or retail sector. It's really up to each individual to decide how much work is enough, or whether working a part time job during the school year is the best method.

### Free Money!!! My Favourite Kind of Money.

It's not completely free money as there are strings attached but they are really short strings. There are plenty of scholarships and bursaries that are available to students. Sometimes scholarships and bursaries are given out in exchange for summer work with research programs. Large companies will often offer scholarships or bursaries for students who are employees or students whose parents are employees.

Scholarships are given out on the basis of academic merit and your marks will have to be pretty stellar if you want to receive any scholarships. Scholarships range from \$50 - \$10,000, with most of the scholarships being around \$1000. There is usually heavy competition for these scholarships, with more than half of all awards being given to first year students. But if you are eligible, the pay off is good. Some scholarships are automatically assessed for each year you stay in university but others will require separate application.

Bursaries require satisfactory academic standing and proof of financial need. These are given out from various funds or donors. The undergraduate Access Fund bursary and Supplementary Bursaries are available at Student Financial Resources Centre, however, you cannot include any of these programs into your financial plan as receipt of these funds are not guaranteed.

### Student Loans

Student loans are given to those who can demonstrate a short-fall between the needs and resources of the student. The allowable needs include tuition, books, rent, food, and clothing. The expected resources include summer savings, parental or spousal contribution and any other resources such as scholarships, other savings or bonds.

Most provinces have provincial loan programs affiliated with the Canada student loan program. You have to be in full time studies, a resident of the province that you wish to apply through and a permanent resident or citizen of Canada to be eligible for the provincial student loan.

The downside of student loans is having a high debt load coming out of your degree. This may hamper other plans such as purchasing a car, a home or even traveling when you have repayment to consider. However there are also loan relief and interest relief programs offered through the government that will help relieve the pressure of the student loans. That being said, you have to be very careful to not go into default, which will affect your credit ratings.

### Student Line of Credit

For those who have reached their student loan maximum or are ineligible for student loans for whatever reasons, student lines of credit is an option to explore. Most major banks offer student line of credit ranging from \$8,000 to \$15,000 a year, and most allow four years of borrowing for undergraduates. However, most undergraduates will require a co-signer to access lines of credit and there are no programs such as loan relief or interest relief upon graduation.

During the time when you are in school, you will have to make monthly interest-only payments on the money that you have used, not the money you have been approved for. After finishing your schooling, you have a 6-12 month grace period, again depending on the bank, before you are expected to make payments on your principal and interest. Keep in mind that during this grace period interest is accruing on your loan.

## USEFUL WEBSITES

### Scholarships:

Student Awards: [www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards](http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards)

### Bursaries:

Supplementary Bursaries: [www.ualberta.ca/~emergaid](http://www.ualberta.ca/~emergaid)  
Access Fund: [www.su.ualberta.ca/accessfund](http://www.su.ualberta.ca/accessfund)

### Canada Student Loans (NSLSC)

[www.canlearn.ca/nslsc](http://www.canlearn.ca/nslsc)

### Repayment calculator:

[www.canlearn.ca/aftergraduation/managedebt/clindex.cfm?lang=canlearn=en](http://www.canlearn.ca/aftergraduation/managedebt/clindex.cfm?lang=canlearn=en)

### Alberta Student Loans:

[www.alis.gov.ab.ca/studentsfinance](http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/studentsfinance)

### Job Listings For Students

[www.ualberta.ca/CAPS](http://www.ualberta.ca/CAPS)

### UofA International Centre

[www.international.ualberta.ca](http://www.international.ualberta.ca)

## NOR A BORROWER BE... OH, IF ONLY IT WERE THAT SIMPLE

Remember when you were an idealistic first year student? Lost in the maze of halls; running through wind, rain, and snow to get to your next class on time; pulling all-nighters to make up for lost weekends; and, signing your life away on endless exam booklets, applications, and perplexing forms. Well, that was then and this is now, and some of those signatures are about to become very important.

### Student Loans

Let's take a step back and look at what you were actually signing when the weary person on the other side of the of the rickety folding table told you to: "Sign and date." "Sign and date." "Oh, and one more time, sign and date." Basically, every time you signed and dated those loan documents you were entering into official financial contracts and agreeing to pay back your lenders the full principal borrowed, plus interest at the time that you cease to be a full-time student. In the next year, some of you will cease to be full-time students and because you entered into these contracts being of sound mind and body, you must start thinking about fulfilling your part of the bargain (and no, your part is not simply to graduate!)

- Provide all lenders with proof of enrolment for each full-time study period in which you are enrolled, to maintain interest free status.
- Notify all lenders with change of school, address, name, and enrolment status.
- Keep track of the amounts borrowed and paid back.
- Know the terms of each loan.
- Repay the loan (after your grace period) whether or not you complete your studies, graduate or are unable to find employment.
- Be aware of and apply for any loan benefits you may be eligible for (i.e. interest relief).
- Make loan payments on time.
- Inform all lenders if you are unable to make loan payments in order to revise your payments or apply for interest relief benefits.

### What Can You Expect Your Lenders to Do For You?

During and after your last year of full-time studies you should expect to get three letters from your lenders. This is the start of the consolidation process. It your responsibility to ensure that all your lenders have your current address, that your loans are repaid appropriately, failure to do so will result in default!

### Repayment Terms

When you get these consolidation letters, you are going to have to make some more decisions. For example, your consolidation letter will have a repayment schedule already worked out with a 9<sup>1/2</sup> year repayment term. You can, however, revise this term to suit your needs and situation. A shorter repayment period means bigger monthly payments but you will be done sooner with less interest. A longer repayment period means smaller monthly payments and more total interest. You can repay student loans at any time without penalty. You also need to decide on interest type. There are two to choose from: Floating Rate and Fixed Rate. If you don't specify you will be given a floating rate (prime + 2.5%) but you can choose the fixed rate of prime + 5%.

**Remember:** These payments are mandatory, unless otherwise reworked with your lenders (see below), and must be made to ensure a good credit rating and any further student funding.

## What if You Can't Pay?

Your lenders are aware of the financial problems facing new graduates. The Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP) as well as the provincial governments have enacted several debt management programs by which to manage your loans.

### Alberta Student Loan Relief Completion Payment

If you are eligible and have indicated on your last student loan application that you will be ending full-time studies, you will be automatically assessed and the payment will be sent to your Alberta lenders. If you did not indicate that you will be ending full-time studies and/or you graduate early, you must apply for loan relief. Applications can be downloaded from [www.alis.gov.ab.ca/studentsfinance/eap.asp](http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/studentsfinance/eap.asp).

**Eligibility:** You must be graduating or otherwise discontinuing your full-time studies and meet minimum debt requirements, and meet minimum debt requirements.

### Interest Relief (IR)

The government pays the accruing interest for six months at a time. You must re-apply for IR after each six month period up to a maximum of 30 months. You must apply for IR with all your lenders separately just like you had to confirm full-time status with all lenders.

**Eligibility:**

- Be living in Canada or be participating in a government or privately sponsored international internship program.
- Have signed a Consolidated Student Loan Agreement.
- Have not reached the 30 month maximum.
- Have maintained loans in good standing with all lenders.

To apply for IR, contact the National Student Loan Centre for pre-screening and they will send you the application forms. It is your responsibility to apply for IR.

### Revision of Terms

You may also ask your lenders to revise your repayment terms. This can include an extension of your repayment period up to 15 years, thereby lowering monthly payments.

### Debt Reduction in Repayment (DRR)

If you have exhausted all other options, have been out of school for five years, and are still having difficulty repaying your student loans, you can apply for DRR. If you qualify (your loan payments exceed 15% of your family income), DRR will reduce your loan principal up to 50% or \$10,000 (whichever is less).

### Permanent Disability Benefit (PDB)

If, because of permanent disability, you are having an exceptionally hard time repaying your loans you may qualify for PDB which can lower your payments or total debt in relation to income. Contact your local Canada Alberta Service Centre (see Alberta government blue pages).

## Dangers of Obtaining a Personal Loan to Repay Student Loans

If you decide to obtain a personal loan to repay your government sponsored student loan you will most likely be paying a much higher interest rate (prime + 2.5% or 5% is pretty good for a first time borrower) and will lose access to the benefits that go along with government sponsored loans, such as: IR, EIR, DRR, PDB, interest free status if you return to school full-time, and being allowed to claim 17% tax credit on the interest you pay on loans each year (see: [www.ccca-adrc.gc.ca/E/pub/tg](http://www.ccca-adrc.gc.ca/E/pub/tg))

## FUNDING OPTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

I am glad to be a bearer of good news to my fellow international students out there! Yes! After two years of groping around in the darkness of financial shortage, I have finally seen the light.

I'm sure all you foreign students were absolutely thrilled, as I was, when mum or dad broke the news to you! We're sending you to Canada! Hurray! I was pretty thrilled. For the first couple of days, all I thought of was the good stuff about studying abroad...all except the finances. Well, if they thought of sending me away, the money must be no problem, right? Hah! So I thought till I stepped into the real world!

Now my first few days were not exactly as I imagined them, and I'm sure a lot of you share my opinion. It was 12 degrees yet I was freezing! I was lost, knew no one...! Well, being a first year student, I didn't really have to worry about tuition now that I was here; we had had to pay it all already before I could set foot on the plane. I had my pocket money, and boy, was I feeling rich, until the reality of living away from home set in (and in away, I mean thousands of miles)!

Now, it is essential, imperative, crucial (and all the words I can think of that allude to very important) that you plan financially for the year or years that you are going to be studying here. Yes, the \$11,500 for tuition – that's for undergraduate science; could be more or less depending on the faculty, but nonetheless expensive! The textbooks, the rent, the health insurance... and the list goes on. Check with the International Centre for approximate yearly costs ([www.international.ualberta.ca/intcent.htm](http://www.international.ualberta.ca/intcent.htm)).

Alas, I had no idea about the few but fabulous funding opportunities available. I only found out after my second year. Hopefully, you get to find out sooner. There are scholarships that are faculty specific as well as more general ones. There are also bursaries available to international students. Check with the International Centre in HUB.

It certainly takes a while to settle into the way things work when you move to a new country, and finding a job may not be a preferred option especially with the academic load and all. But for those who are eager to make some extra money, it is possible to get a job on campus, which is the only place we're allowed to work anyway.

If you happen to come into a bit of a financial fix that is not University-related (i.e. has nothing to do with tuition or books or library fines etc.), you can apply for an Emergency Student Loan from the Student Financial Resources Centre (SFRC).

You might actually consider applying for a loan through a bank if you have a considerable amount of collateral or a Canadian sponsor. There are also a number of local organisations and businesses, Non-Governmental Organisations, missions and government agencies that may be interested in your field of study and may offer financial assistance or research positions.

So, I hope I have been able to lift up your spirits. One rule of thumb I've adopted is: if you aren't sure, just ask. With careful planning and looking into all available options, not leaving any stones unturned, studying in Canada can be the opportunity that it is meant to be.



## **PAYING FOR A TRAVEL EXCHANGE**

If you want to "see the world", live and learn in an international environment, then an exchange is what you are looking for. Hearing that half of your friends just came back from Germany, Mexico or China will be convincing enough for you to pay a visit to the International Centre. But what is more important is you get to study internationally while earning credits towards your U of A degree; now that is a deal not to miss!

But going on an exchange hardly happens overnight; it takes a lot of planning and determination to take an extra step to get what you want. Spending 4 month in Paris has a sweet sound to your ear but causes holes in your pockets. Your first action, after knowing that you will be attending an international University, is to find out how much tuition will cost, and what other payments you need to make at the U of A.

It's also a good idea to ask about plane tickets early which means you need to have your passport ready and you need to inquire whether you need a visa to the country you will be living in. You can start your search for plane tickets at Travel Cuts, in SUB. As for the country you will be visiting, your starting point would be the International Centre in HUB Mail.

Make sure to do plenty of research on how much rent and utilities will cost. Look at the currency of the country you will be living in to know ahead how you should be budgeting.

With all the extra expenses there are a couple of funding options you could consider. If you are a Canadian Citizen or landed immigrant, apply for a Government Student Loan. You need to submit a paper application with the appropriate schedules and a letter explaining the change in your financial situation. If you did not receive the amount that you had hoped for and have appropriate documentation, you can appeal your loan. But you should not budget as if Student Loans will solve your financial problems.

If you are not eligible for a student loan, you might be eligible for a student line of credit. Royal Bank, Bank of Montreal and TD Bank offer line of credits, usually with a cosigner. A good plan is to shop around for better interest rates and higher available maximums a student can access.

Another resource is travel bursaries. The International Centre provides a number of International bursaries: some are specifically designed for the University you will be visiting, and others are general application for any university/country. You should also look at the awards website ([www.registrar.ualberta.ca](http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca)) since they have a couple of travel awards as well.

In the end, deciding to take that extra step and highlighting your university education with an international experience is great way to diversify your university experience. You just have to plan your exchange at least one year from the time you will be leaving so that you can budget well and plan for a fabulous once in a lifetime experience.



**Student Financial Aid Information Centre**

**[www.su.ualberta.ca/sfaic](http://www.su.ualberta.ca/sfaic)**

**YOUR FRONT LINE FOR STUDENT FUNDING.**

**Questions? Like to talk to a Financial Aid  
Advisor about funding issues?**

**We offer walk in service 5 days a week.**

**Student Financial Resources Centre 1 – 80 SUB  
8.30 to 4.30 pm Monday to Friday  
492.3493  
[sfaic@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:sfaic@su.ualberta.ca)  
[www.su.ualberta.ca/sfaic](http://www.su.ualberta.ca/sfaic)**



**A FREE service of your Students' Union**

# Way 1



Tom Hanks

Sometime before 1993, Hollywood was a much different place. Crackpot speculation suggests it was a mean and glittery territory ruled by an impeccably well-manicured band of **man-eating ogres**. Chaos ruled the land, and the people of this "Hollywood" made films to distract their beastly captors from making their ogre-bread from the citizens' cowardly bones. One of those involved in these "films" was a young star, a nice, average sort of fellow named Tom Hanks, whose **good-humoured persona** began to inspire a this drab folk, teaching them valuable lessons such as nice guys don't always finish last and that there is **no crying in baseball**.

By 1993, it appeared that this Mr Hanks had managed to harness all of his powers of nice-itude as he clearly emerged as the new ruler of Hollywood, releasing two films that year, *Sleepless in Seattle* and *Philadelphia*, which solidified his place in the public's warm and fuzzy heart. The latter movie, *Philadelphia*, in which Hanks played a lawyer afflicted with AIDS, won him the first of **two consecutive Academy Awards** (an accomplishment not made by an actor since Spencer Tracy in 1937, 1938). Since then, Hanks has been a benign and mildly comedic ruler, regularly making "quality" films about **astronauts and soldiers**, films which seem to guarantee him a perennial spot, possibly an **aisle seat**, at the annual Academy Awards.

Words: Leah Collins, Daniel Kaszot, and Jake Troughton  
"Visual Aids": Leah Collins

You've bought a new **Britney** calendar, the **hobos** sleeping in your yard, and **Dick Clark** has been carefully placed back in his cryogenic chamber for the new year, 2004, and there's no use looking back on all that time w... unless you're willing to look way on back. Back nigh on **eleventy** years ago, a year of **Mortal Kombat**, teen angst, Canadian sporting **peachy ke** not have said back in that **eleven** years ago day). And, it was a year we feel like sharing with the quasi-futuristic readers of this year.

## Dance Mix 93

If the kids were indeed using adjectives such as "fresh," "fly," and occasionally "**cool beans**" back in 1993, be sure that said slang buzzwords were being used by **EC dancers** and ten-year-old jazz/tap students alike in reference to Dance Mix '93, Muchmusic's masterpiece of a pop compilation.

It was too soon for the music compilation to meet its "**big shiny**" fate, and the bubblegum quagmire of the later '90s was still a long way off. The kitschy dance pop of the previous decade seemed to have met its comeuppance in '93, as even quintessential boy band New Kids on the Block retired, its members fading into embarrassing obscurity. With all the baggy-panted, angry commercialism of the new grunge/alternative hotness, it seemed that it would be a long time before pop fans would get a chance to dance again, albeit outside one of those **new-fangled mosh pits**.

And then came a brash upstart host of a Muchmusic program called **X-tendmix** (would later be rebubbed "Da Mix" in 1994), a certain **Master T**, who "hand-picked" 17 dance tracks for the kids to "bump and grind" to. A little House of Pain to make the kids to "Jump Around," "Move This" by Technorotic, two whole tracks from 2 Unlimited, Tag Team's number one summer smash "**Whoomp... There it is**," and just to meet those pesky CanCon requirements, "Living in Ecstasy" by **Captain Pirate Radio**, Chris Sheppard's BKS.

The CD quickly went to **number one** in Canada (with a modest 70 000 copies sold) and soon, the trashy neo-disco sound of Dance Mix '93 was the soundtrack to countless air guitar contests, awkward teen **box socials**, and jazzercise workshops. The kids may have been sporting grungy uniforms of oversized No Fear T-shirts and Doc Martens, but the glittery words of "**Rhythm is a Dancer**" were in their hearts.



## 1993 By the numbers The top elevens of eleven years ago.

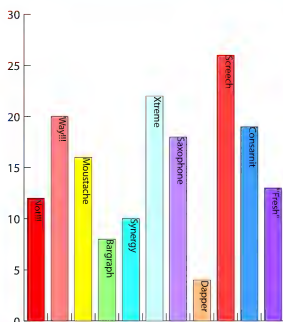


Figure 1.1 Favourite words of 1993

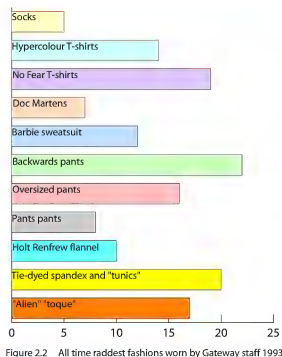


Figure 2.2 All time raddest fashions worn by Gateway staff 1993



Figure 3.3 Breakdown of the top elevens of eleven years ago

# 1993

dumpster have finally stopped singing "Auld Lang Syne," banister until another "Rockin' Eve" is upon us. Yes, it's a wasted vice and Internet Scrabble, sweetcheeks. No use years to the borderline-nostalgia wonderland of 1993. It was enness and much, much "freshness" (as the kids may or may ar that the Gateway's crack team of Hot-or-not-ism experts 2004. Word up.

## Mortal Monday

The alluring glow of new gaming consoles and a little corporate competition made 1993 a year of years for video games. The Super Nintendo, released in 1992, was still riding high in popularity and the Sega Genesis was close behind, both offering mind-blowing graphics and innovative games.

But all the stars and mushrooms in Marioland couldn't stop the Genesis from gaining the upper hand in popularity. It was a fateful day on 13 September, 1993, that allowed the Genesis to surpass the SNES in sales, at least for a little while. It was the release of arcade favourite Mortal Kombat for SNES and Genesis on the now historically titled "Mortal Monday" that created a huge rift between the systems. The SNES got the version of the game that played better, at the cost of censored action. In reaction to each punch, players no longer released buckets of blood (a charming detail which gained the game much infamy and appeal). Instead, the SNES version replaced Mortal Kombat's plasma geysers with giant squirts of sweat. The uncensored, and clearly totally cooler, Genesis version kept all the blood, which made it the more popular, giving Sega the lead against Nintendo and giving prepubescent across North America a reason to squeal with geeky glee.



## Canadian Sporting

1993 was truly the pinnacle of Canadian sporting greatness. The Montreal Canadiens beat the Los Angeles Kings four games to one to win the 100th Stanley Cup. The series was as close as Wayne Gretzky would come to winning a championship post-Oilers, proving beyond a doubt that leaving Canada was a mistake. This was also the last time that a Canadian team earned the right to drink sweet victory from Lord Stanley's mug—possibly ever.

Also in 1993, a Joe Carter home run in the bottom of the ninth inning in game six versus the Philadelphia Phillies propelled the Toronto Blue Jays to their second straight World Series title. As millions of Canadians poured onto the streets to celebrate the victory over the best that the US had to offer, millions of Americans grabbed their remote controls and decided that football was always a better game anyway.

Canadians also dominated at that year's World Figure Skating Championships. Alberta's Kurt Browning made artistic athletics cool again when he won the men's gold medal, while Isabelle Brasseur and Lloyd Eisler took the pair's title.

And of course, 1993 saw the dramatic victory of "Canada's Team," the Edmonton Eskimos, in the Grey Cup game. Their 33–23 win over the traitorous Winnipeg Blue Bombers, the hated prairie-dwellers who were representing the CFL's East division for some reason, was a major victory for Canadian geography.

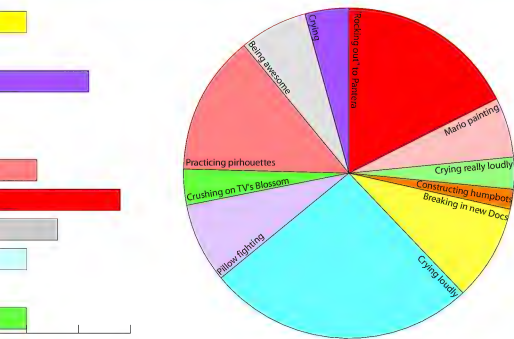


Figure 4.4 Most common activities of Gateway Editors 1993

## 1993

### For really this time. Honest.

#### Top Movie Money-makers of 1993:

Jurassic Park	\$356 839 725
Mrs Doubtfire	\$219 194 773
The Fugitive	\$183 752 965
The Firm	\$158 308 178
Sleepless in Seattle	\$126 551 583

#### Top Five Billboard Singles of 1993:

Rhythm is a Dancer	Crush
I'm Gonna be (500 Miles)	Bad Boys ("Cops")
Diddy	All that she Wants

Snap!
The Proclaimers
Inner Circle
The Paperboys
Ace of Base

#### From the Archives – The Gateway's Ten Best Albums of 1993 (According to then A&E Editor Dave Johnston):

1) Bob Geldof	The Happy Club
2) Doughboys	Crush
3) Violent Femmes	Add it Up
4) Philip Glass/David Bowie	Low Symphony
5) Liz Phair	Exile in Guyville
6) Smashing Pumpkins	Siamese Dream
7) Forbidden Dimension	Sin Gallery
8) Sting	Ten Summoner's Tales
9) Bob's Your Uncle	Cages
10) King Apparatus	Marbles



## THE HAIKURALLY

### Basketball

Pandas Basketball  
Take on the Lethbridge Pronghorns  
Games at Half Past Six

First they win Friday  
Then again on Saturday  
All in the main Gym

Exciting bonus  
AnySportAnyTime will  
Broadcast over web

The Bears are back too  
Wow! They also play Lethbridge  
Who would have thought it?

They pound the hardwood  
Starting at eight-thirty  
Also in Main Gym

For Radio Hoops  
Check AnySportAnyTime  
The Internet rocks!

### Hockey

Undeclared Bears  
Head down the road to Lethbridge  
For two more big wins

Both games start at Seven  
Two shutouts in a row  
Looking for two more

CISR will  
Broadcast both games this weekend  
With Big Bob Stauffer

The Mighty Pandas  
Also are undeclared  
Playing UBC

Games will start at Seven  
In the Clare Drake Arena  
We will win them both

Look here boys and girls  
AnySportAnyTime has  
Both games online. Woot!

### Volleyball

Exciting News time  
Pandas play a foreign team  
Not Saskatchewan

Quarter Past Seven  
Tsukuba Japan will be here  
Ready for action

We should all see them  
And show hospitality  
Thursday in Main Gym

Number one Bears team  
Travels to Langley BC  
Trinity Western

The games are at Nine  
On Friday and Saturday  
And we will win both

### Wrestling

Big scary wrestlers  
Host the Varsity Open  
In the Butterdome

Five to Nine Friday  
Or the Invitational  
Saturday at Noon

Welcome to the new, more literary Pep Rally, y'all.

## Volleyball Pandas to play Japanese champs

International exhibition match against University of Tsukuba tonight in the Main Gym

JOEL CHURCH  
Sports Editor

While the Pandas volleyball team has thus far dominated Canada West, their biggest challenge of the year will be coming from the Far East. As part of an ongoing series, the Pandas host the defending All-Japan League national champion University of Tsukuba tonight at 7:15pm in the Main Gym.

The match is part of an exchange program which last saw Tsukuba (pronounced "tsu-ku-ba") host the Pandas in August 2002. Tsukuba is making their return to Edmonton for the first time since 2000.

Playing against an international team will provide the Pandas with valuable experience and exposure against a different style of play. The clash of the two different styles gives Pandas head coach Laurie Eisler a chance to see how her team's system holds up against the intense training of the Japanese team. "I haven't seen the heights on their roster, but we may have a physical advantage (over Tsukuba)," said Eisler. "But they have other advantages, and one is that they've touched the volleyball more times than we will in a lifetime."

Eisler holds Tsukuba in high esteem, as their defense of this year's Japanese national title is enough to gain respect all over the volleyball sporting world. "If you can compete with this team, you can compete with any other team in North America," said Eisler.

Japan's system is more akin to North America's varsity program dominated system, as opposed to the European system, which is club team dominated. "It's nice to play against other countries that have a similar system, so in some ways you can compare your sports equity," said Eisler. "But there isn't [equity]," she added. "They play year round, and the entry level for them [into the sport] is seven or eight years old."



**DIG, DUG** The Pandas have their work cut out for them against the University of Tsukuba.

Eisler feels that the match will be a nice way for her team to prepare for their return to Canada West action after the holiday break. "I think we have most of the rust off and the turkey out of our systems, so now we're ready, and this will help us to return to play in the Canada West. I don't think we're going to play anyone tougher than we will this weekend," said Eisler.

Third-year left side Janna Konikowski, a vet-

eran of the previous Tsukuba matchup, believes that the exposure helps the younger players on the team. "It's a good experience even just to watch an international team," said Konikowski. "We're lucky to be able to play against them."

The Pandas resume Canada West in two weeks with a trip west to play a pair of games against the Trinity Western Spartans. Joining them will be the Golden Bears, who look to improve upon last weekend's 1-2 record.

## Holiday rest offers second chance for Pandas hoopsters

Trip to California renews team confidence for their return to Canada West play this weekend

JAKE TROUGHTON  
Sports Writer

The Pandas basketball squad look to rebound from a disappointing first half of the season when they take on the Lethbridge Pronghorns this weekend.

After beginning the year with a 1-7 record, the team has gone 3-2 in non-conference matches since the Christmas break, including two wins over American teams during a trip to California at the end of December. Head coach Trix Baker believes that the team's recent trip, which included visits to the San Diego Zoo and Sea World, will ultimately be beneficial both mentally and physically. "We were focused on trying to get together as a group and improve," she said.

The wins over University of the Redlands and Christian Heritage College helped the team build much-needed confidence, and a hectic practice schedule enabled them to get back into shape after the break, which Baker says was tough on the team. "There're chairs in the gym for exams, so we lose our practice facility quite early and it's kind of hard to stay in shape as a team."

Pandas guard April Kanderka felt the team learned a lot on the trip. "It's a different game down there, so we had to change our game toward that," she said. "It's (also) good to see the top teams in the US right now; how they play, and what we need to do to get better."

Already having won three times as many games in 2004 than in the previous term, the squad is confident it can turn their momentum into con-

fidence wins this weekend against the Pronghorns. "I think people know what we have to do, now they've just got to go out and do it," Baker said. "We had some things to focus on based on what we'd done in the first term. Obviously, being 1-7 is not where we want to be."

The Pandas are currently eleventh out of twelve teams in Canada West, but now have a chance to get back into playoff contention. The 3-5 Pronghorns, currently tied for the eighth and final playoff spot, offer as good a chance as any for the Pandas to start a winning streak. "It's good for us to be at home and be able to play a team that's struggling a little bit as well," said Baker. "It's important we get two wins this weekend."

The Pandas and the Pronghorns have yet to face each other this season, but Baker and Kanderka expect the Lethbridge squad to be much the same as last year, when the teams split their four meetings. "They have the same coaching style and mostly the same players on their team," said Kanderka, confident that her side can improve on last year's series split. "Our practices are looking good and we have healthy people, so it looks kind of optimistic."

Baker will have her team focus on defending against the Pronghorn attack this weekend. "They like to get the ball inside, like to push it up the floor a little bit," she said. "They've shot the ball extremely well from the perimeter, so we have to make sure we get out on shooters."

Baker feels there will be no problem facing Lethbridge for the first time this year. "I've got a scouting report on them. I've got film on them, so we'll be ready for them."

Friday and Saturday night's action begins at 6:30pm for the Pandas, who will be joined by the Golden Bears who also take on Lethbridge, with their games beginning at 8:15pm. All games take place in the Main Gym.



**SHAKE IT TO THE RIGHT** Pandas Guard Sarah van Hooydonk (21) and her squad return to action.

## Dual weekend tournaments for wrestling squad

### Chance for inexperienced team to showcase talents at home in Butterdome

GEOFF WADDE  
Sports Writer

Call it a rebuilding period. Stung by the mass exodus of former members due to graduation and others due to health concerns, this year's men's wrestling program, led by coach Vang Ioannides, is beginning anew, working with a large influx of first-year wrestlers to reestablish the school's reputation on the mats.

"Our teams right now are quite young," said Ioannides, who's entering his twelfth year at the helm of the varsity program. "Our men's team doesn't have anybody with more than one year of eligibility used so far." On the women's side, there is the same situation, with the exception of fourth-year veteran Heidi Kulak who has hefty expectations placed upon her due to her experience. "What we've always expected from [Heidi] is that she'll be a competitor for the CIS championship this year, just as she has been for the last couple," boasted Ioannides.

Obviously, expectations for newer team members will be a bit more modest than they are for the veteran Kulak. "All of the first- and second-year athletes, though we'd love for them to step up and compete at [the championship] level, realistically, what we're really hoping for is that somebody has a breakthrough and qualifies for the CIS championships," said Ioannides.

Kulak knows that she has her work cut out for her, since she'll be providing the experience for both the men and the women on the team. "Because we train together, we don't think of our teams as men's and women's. The women train with the men in cer-



JAMES JOHNSON

**QUICK, GRAB HIS FEET!** Two wrestlers prepare for weekend tournaments.

tain instances," said Kulak. "I've been through the team's Christmas camp four times now, I know what to expect and how everyone is feeling."

Heidi's knowledge of the sport is also being passed along to her younger brother Anthony, who is entering his first year on the team. Wrestling seems to be in the blood of the Kulak family, as their older brother Chris competed for Simon Fraser, while younger brother Matt is already learning the craft at the age of seven. "[Matty's] already got his chokelocks down, so he'll be coming up in ten years," laughs Heidi. "We all like to beat each other up and train and fight it out."

Anthony is already trying to make his splash on the team, while trying to gain weight to be on par in his 54kg weight class. Opposite to most wrestlers who normally try to lose weight to stay within their bracket, Anthony feels that his size isn't a large problem. "Every wrestler I challenge is a little bit bigger than me, but it's been good so far," smiles Anthony. "I have got a little bit of Christmas weight left over, though."

The team will be competing in a Varsity Open which begins on Friday at 7pm in the Butterdome, and concludes at noon on Saturday before the Golden Bear invitational which begins immediately after at 1pm.

### Do you know what game this is?

If you said "hockey," then you're not a complete loss. If you said "NHL '95," then you need to get up here and write for sports. Now, who knows, we might even let you skate blindly all over the place surrounded by a giant glowing star. It's tricky at first, but you pick it up pretty quick.

Just try not to trip on all those giant numbers following you around, okay?

**THE GATEWAY**

## Terra Informa

Tuesdays @ 5:00pm on CJSR

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Check out our Website for more Volunteer Opportunities and student-engagement on campus



Environmental  
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lower level SUB  
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I wanted to make a difference, but I can't afford the education to get there...

The University claims it is committed to creating opportunities for students and educating the leaders of the future. Why are they spending less in the classroom while jacking tuition 215% since 1993?

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### TUITION EVENTS

#### Monday January 12:

- Greek Community Bar Night @ the Power Plant
- The Value of Education: An Examination of Higher Learning 3 – 5 pm @ Education South 129 Hosted by the Education Students' Association (ESA)

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- Overnight Candlelight Vigil for Tuition 6:30 pm – 7 am @ SUB

#### Friday January 16:

- Pancake Breakfast 7–9 am @ Celebration Plaza (right by the bus loop entrance)
- Board of Governors Decision Meeting begins at 8 am, Tuition likely at 9:30 @ University Hall (beside Van Vleet)

Show your support of accessible PSE January 15th at 4:30 pm Arts/Business QUAD



COME WATCH US  
**play**



## Downward spiral ahead for Oilerville



JOEL  
CHURY

Sports  
Editor

So far so good for the Oilers in 2004; they've already won two games, which is two thirds of what they won in December. And despite the recent success of Mike Comrie since his trade to Philly, it looks as though the Blue and Copper may have gotten their collective shit together. But still lingering in the mouths of their fans is the taste left from whatever the organization was trying to pass off as hockey for the first three months.

Though there's no reason to begin ranting about doom and gloom, the fact remains that there isn't a logical ray of sunshine on the Oilers horizon. Gone within a year are the talented trio of Anson Carter, Janne Niinimaa, and Comrie, and so far the replacement tires brought in to get the team to the finish line just aren't getting the job done.

Carter was the leading scorer when he was dealt—his job was taken by Mike York. Niinimaa was the leading scoring defenseman, but now that honour goes to Jason Smith who isn't normally known for his offensive prowess. Comrie was the leading holdout—next year that role could possibly be filled by Ryan Smyth... who knows? The point here is there are downgrades in every one of these categories. York, while pesky, doesn't have the shot (or cool hair) of Anson Carter. Jason Smith is from Calgary, thus he won't truly be able to love this city as much as Niinimaa did—the man wept, for Pete's sake. Comrie is much easier for this city to hate, whereas Smyth's got that grin (and hockey hair) that makes it tough to stay mad at him.

But the downgrades are frightening to fans, since they're destined to go from small defections to wondering why it has taken seven years for Edmonton's favourite team to return to the playoff's Promised Land.

Wait, there it is, a seven-year playoff drought reference means only one thing: this is no longer

a cautious rant about the Oilers, but an angst-ridden plea stemming from the anguish of knowing the developments from a certain team south of here that started out on a path eerily like that which the Oilers are taking. The Calgary Flames are now amidst the longest playoff drought in the league, and have only recently given their fans any hope of a revival. No one would feel safe enough to put money on their return to the playoffs just yet, but it's safe to say this season's an improvement upon exploits of years past. It's only after learning that cheaping out on rookie coaches, no-name general managers, and the free-agent market directly attributed to the team's playoff absence. But have the Oilers done anything differently?

Lowe's a rookie GM who's already been forced to gut the team's talent pool for the budget's sake, but his concern for the team offers translated into his asking Mike Comrie to shell out \$2.5 million to be traded to Anaheim. Regardless of the explanations given by the organization, the request was inexcusable, and it tarnished the team's reputation around the league. If not for the other GMs who would be possible trade partners, Lowe's reputation will suffer with players who may think twice about signing with a team that could either trade you away just when you fall in love with the city like Niinimaa, or hold your career for ransom like they tried to do with Comrie.

On top of that, Craig MacClavish may be running out of steam, as the prospects of the playoffs seem grim, even if postseason play was attainable, a second-round berth seems nearly impossible. With the dwindling depth of talent in this town (especially at the centre position), only a high-priced coach like Jacques Lemaire of the Minnesota Wild could turn Oilers water into playoff wine.

The team needs to take winning seriously. Be it the ownership group, the head office, or behind the bench, changes need to be made to keep fans reassured they aren't being scammed. Because if a playoff appearance slowly drifts from inevitability to not-bloody-likely, it'll take the Oilers a while for their fans to forgive them. Maybe 2004 will stop the bleeding before this Blue and Copper patient dies.



Student Financial Aid Information Centre

## We are your front-line for student

### Student loan or funding questions?

Walk in service five days a week on the first floor of SUB:

- All aspects of student loans
- Referrals to other financial aid services
- Information about non-government funding programs

Our mandate is to assist students to find the financial resources necessary to fulfill their academic objectives.

### Supplementary Bursaries

Applications for the Supplementary Bursary Program will be available on-line through the University Bursaries and Emergency Funding website [www.ualberta.ca/~emergaid](http://www.ualberta.ca/~emergaid) from December 1, 2003 until January 15, 2004.

Funds will be disbursed in April 2004. Contact the Student Financial Resources Centre at 492-3483 for further information.



Student Financial Resource Centre 1-80 SUB  
8.30 to 4.30 pm Monday to Friday  
492.3483 • [sfaic@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:sfaic@su.ualberta.ca) • [www.su.ualberta.ca/sfaic](http://www.su.ualberta.ca/sfaic)



## SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Our illustrious Arts and Entertainment Writers go out and get the skinny on what's happening over the weekend and into next week so you don't have to.

### Struggle

with DJ Mick Sleeper  
Sidetrack Café  
Saturday, 10 January

Calgary's conscious rastafarians Struggle bring their message of equality, justice and the unity of all people into Edmonton's longest running live music venue on Saturday. Struggle is currently making their way across Canada to promote their most recent album. Also rocking the Caribbean vibe at this show will be DJ Mick Sleeper, a fairly decent rastafarian in his own right and host of CJIS's Soul Shakedown Party.

### Antifreeze

University of Alberta Campus  
Friday, 9 January



Once again, the Student's Union brings you the most awesome party this side of WOW in the aptly-named Antifreeze. For instance, you could sashay on down to the PowerPlant Friday night for Mixology 105, where various teams compete to get you smashed as pleasantly as possible. Plus, various frat boys will try to get laid! And, it will all be hosted by the uber-excited Jadene Mah, or some other equally chipper young student volunteers.

### Go see a movie

Wherever  
Whenever

Return of the King is still raking in millions of dollars, and you know you can't resist for much longer! You'll have to see it, or else when your friends get together and all talk about it, you'll be left out with nothing to discuss but your mom's leftover meatloaf. What, these aren't good suggestions? Why don't you find your own damn things to do, you lazy bastards. I don't have to impress you.

### The Freaky Zebras

with Chili Hot Hot  
Rosen Hall  
Saturday, 10 January



The eclectic East Coast garage rockers The Freaky Zebras take their brand of stripped-down funk and outrageous clothes to the south side for one of the most anticipated hall shows of the young year. They are currently touring throughout the Prairies and the American Northwest to support their latest album *Open Mouth, Closed Mind*, which has been generating major label buzz. In addition to the spandex-clad quintet, local rockers Chili Hot Hot are also on the bill, fresh off a raucous and much talked-about New Year's gig.

DAVE BERRY  
Arts & Entertainment Wizard



## Nice guys get their Masters in rock

### Niceguy

with Snic, Mark Birdies Project, Willsbong and  
Rauchy Wahs  
Saturday, 10 January  
Powerplant

HEATHER ADLER  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

"Sometimes I think we might be the dumbest band in Edmonton," laughs bassist and undeniably nice guy, Geoff Moysa. While the combined academic prowess of the trio of university students—who are all currently enrolled in either Law or Medicine—may seem to slaughter the collective intelligence of most other local bands, Moysa and his band of mensa-rivaling musicians are just your typical post-punk kind of band. They just finished their second album and are currently entrenched in the Edmonton club junket, trying to maintain their local buzz.

"I think we might be stupid for not going full throttle with the band, and I'd love to, but I'm a little scared of the music industry," Moysa remarks. "I'm in law school now and I'm seeing

very few differences between being the music industry and being a lawyer. That's a really sad thing to say, but it's true; [music] is a very cut-throat industry that's very business oriented and I don't know if there's a way to get away from that."

Together since they met in high school, Niceguy has slowly evolved into a local favourite with two full-length CDs gracing their resumé. Their latest endeavour, released just before Christmas, garnered a warm welcome from the Edmonton music community. "We're old friends and we grew up playing really fast, really hard skate-punk because that's what we were listening to ... we started out doing punk shows and some people were really into it, but a lot of people had this huge stick up their ass about it, because apparently we weren't allowed to play punk music," he laments of the band's beginnings. "We were kids from the suburbs who did well in school, so we would get a lot of angst at our shows and people would actually get mad, which is the most ridiculous thing ever. Now, we've grown out of pop-punk and I don't even know where we've gone, but we still play passionate,

aggressive music."

Moysa explains that along with their progression away from power chords, the band has also widened the berth of topics their compositions cover. "We've never really had lyrics that are just about girls or angst," he notes. "On this one there was a lot more cosmology and questions about the universe, but it was done in a way that isn't really esoteric and brainy—it is just really down-to-earth questions about why things are the way they are."

Blending their scholarly ways with a unique brand of matured aggression, Niceguy looks poised to continue their healthy lives as a local must-hear. While time constraints for the three busy students may keep them from the holy grail of fulltime rock, Moysa says they won't be turning in their strings for suits any time soon, either. "We've never said 'we don't have time to do this' because it's not a chore; when we get home from school it is like a release and it's something we all look forward to doing. We're basically making art of some kind and the fact that we get to do it with our best friends makes it even better," he concludes.



The Rauchy Wahs



Snic

## BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Members of Willsbong, The Rauchy Wahs, Snic and Niceguy square off in a battle of the words before clashing heads at this weekend's Antifreeze battle of the bands at the Powerplant.

### 1. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR LIVE SHOW?

Lindsay Howell of Willsbong: "A live Willsbong show is a full-body experience: trippy, innovative metal riffs intertwined with heartfelt lyrics and heavy grooves assault your ears in preparation for the heavy, grinding pandemonium that is sure to shake your bones and get your fists pumping in the air! In short, we like to play really loud. Hot, drunk chicks really like our shows."

### 2. WHAT IS YOUR STRATEGY FOR WINNING OVER THE CROWD AT THE BATTLE OF THE BANDS?

Geoff Moysa of Niceguy: "I could say a lot of crappy clichéd stuff about taking my clothes off or make something up about flames and pyrotechnics, but I think we're just going to try to be really awesome. After the CD release party, I turned down my level of awesome so I could save it up for this. I've been coasting on mediocre to shitty for the last little while, but I guess that's the thing about our band—we don't really have any special tricks. We don't have pyrotechnics and we don't jump 30 feet in the air. We just have enough chemistry that we have an amazing time on stage and we have a good time when the crowd has a good time."

### 3. WHAT IS YOUR STRATEGY FOR WINNING OVER THE JUDGES AT THE BATTLE OF THE BANDS?

Lindsay Howell of Willsbong: "Oh, we'd probably say a lot of stuff like 'QSR rocks my world' and 'the SU makes my balls throb' and 'I would sell my soul to the Devil for a record contract.' You know, nothing too desperate. If things go south, don't worry, we have an excellent backup plan: it's code-named 'Backstage Drugs and Sex.' Andrew Jenson of Snic: "Please see Jorge Luis Borges, 'Death and the

Compass': I collect little baubles and store them in a special shrine I made out of shreddings (mostly radish, some paper). Cute little baubles in fact! The notion of a strategy reeks of modernist panache and post-modern pragmatic laziness. Blasted insects. Stomp and press their fluids!"

Chris Leslie of The Rauchy Wahs: "Key aspect #1: Indomitable Spirit. Key aspect #2: A positive attitude. Key aspect #3: A willingness to stand in the face of adversity. Key aspect #4: Insatiable hunger for knowledge. Key aspect #5: trouser snakes the likes of which you've never seen."

### 4. WHO DO YOU THINK WOULD WIN IN A CAGED BATTLE: A GORILLA OR A BEAR? WHY?

Geoff Moysa of Niceguy: "Where would the battle take place? Would it be in cold bear territory, or tropical gorilla land? Jesus, I'm not a scientist." Andrew Jenson of Snic: "The issue that is truly at hand here is one of autonomy and/or semantic capacity—are all mammals created equal or should we throw out our verbiage with the baby and plant some new 'creation' called 'evolution'?"

Chris Leslie of The Rauchy Wahs: "The bear would use guerrilla tactics."

### 5. IF YOUR BAND WAS A VEGETABLE, WHICH VEGETABLE WOULD YOU BE AND WHY?

Lindsay Howell of Willsbong: "A weed. We're annoying, persistent and you can't get rid of us."

Geoff Moysa of Niceguy: "There's not a lot of vegetables that particularly excite me, but for some reason I keep wanting to say broccoli because we're incredibly good for you and if you cook us right ... uh-hh, this is the cheesiest thing I've ever said, never mind."

## STUDENTS' UNION PAGE

JANUARY 8, 2004

## OPEN LETTER TO ALL STUDENTS:

On January 16, our University will decide on a proposal to increase our tuition the maximum amount possible for the coming year. 5.3% may not seem monumental, but it is another small step on a lengthy march upward. At times you may not think there is any action you can take to affect that decision. I believe there is.

For many years there has been agreement that the source of the plight for the University is a withdrawal of government funding. You have heard this argument from one party in the debate for many years, but this year student voices, through your Students' Union are being added to this chorus. However, that does not mean that the University is "forced" into increasing tuition levels every year.

There is a problem at work within our University, and that is a lack of vision at tuition time. While the government has continued to withdraw funding, the University has replaced those funds through tuition increases. In 1994 the increase was 15%, this year it is 5.3%. Yet this year the increase is larger than it was then—\$228 as compared to \$214. Every year the argument is made that such a small percentage is nothing compared to the long-term viability of our institution. On the other side of the debate there has been a concern over rising tuition, and there has never been a debate over the long-term viability of continual increases. Nobody truly understands what these continual increases mean to the average student, except you.

The most recent statistics on graduation rates is for the class that started here in 1996. At that point tuition was \$1 264.20. This newest increase will bring it to \$4 253.28. Not only have this province and administration not examined this situation, they do not have proper statistics if they to even begin to examine the situation.

The quality of our institution is threatened by the withdrawal of government funds, but the quality of our students is also threatened. Ralph Waldo Emerson once said: "I pay the schoolmaster, but it is the school boys who educate my son". In many cases it is impossible for the ever-increasing number of students using our food bank to appreciate this quality here. When students are unable to experience and contribute to our University, our quality declines. However, the most extreme cases are only suggestive of the systematic difficulties faced—those difficulties faced by each one of you.

Even the most privileged student may soon be unable to access our University system. The cost of coming to the U of A, which is more than the national average, is now more than the net cost of attending the majority of public institutions in the U.S. We have now only to overtake the American private system. This is not farfetched.

Ten years ago we never thought the U of A would overtake the public system in the US.

Despite the presence of this overwhelming momentum, neither the University nor the province has a plan that extends further than three years on the state of funding at our University. The commitments that do exist do not base themselves in goals or effects, but merely on the shifting influence of factors.

In my position, I have seen so much loss, but it is true that, as Winston Churchill said; "success is going from failure to failure without losing enthusiasm."

However, without the voice of current students telling our story, neither the provincial government, nor the Board of Governors will know what difficulties are being brought on by their decisions. Or what effect those decisions have on the learning environment at the U of A.

This is where it is necessary to have the assistance of students in compelling our BoG to make this decision consciously. In the next week, the Students' Union is hoping to have the involvement of many campus communities in making the case for the protection of a full undergraduate experience—not just for our one part or our one time.

I hope to see you out taking part all this week. Look for how to get involved in this weeks Gateway.

Mat Brechtel  
President

**Show of Support for  
Affordable University  
January 15th at 4:30 pm  
Arts/Business QUAD**

YOUR 2003/2004 SU EXECUTIVE  
492.4236

President: **Mat Brechtel**  
*president@su.ualberta.ca*  
Vice-President Academic: **Janet Lo**  
*vp.academic@su.ualberta.ca*  
Vice-President External: **Chris Samuel**  
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Vice-President Operations & Finance: **Tyler Botten**  
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Vice-President Student Life: **Jadene Mah**  
*vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca*

## UPCOMING TUITION EVENTS:

## TUITION EVENTS

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@ the Power Plant
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Meeting begins at 8 am, Tuition likely at 9:30 @ University Hall (beside Van Vliet)



# How to make a perfectly cliché romantic comedy

## How To Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!

Directed by Robert Luketic  
Starring Kate Bosworth, Josh Duhamel  
and Topher Grace  
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www.winadatewithtadhamilton.com

IAN MCKAY  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

If you tossed the scripts for every romantic comedy ever written at 10 000 monkeys who were chained to typewriters, eventually these primates would be able to come up with something as clever as the incredibly formulaic new film *How To Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!* by means of sheer intuition. Although the filmmakers behind this by-the-numbers romantic comedy make an attempt to poke fun at themselves and their clichéd approach, in the end, the sap drowns out any of the humour value their half-hearted sarcastic asides bring about.

*Hamilton* is about a small-town girl named Rosalee (Kate Bosworth) who is in love with a movie star named Tad Hamilton (Josh Duhamel). Hamilton plays characters that are wholesome on screen, but in real life he's (surprise) a prick. But, of course, he's a

nice, wholesome, PG, good-on-the-inside sort of prick. When Rosalee wins a date with Hamilton, her best friend Pete Monash (Topher Grace), who also has feelings for her but is afraid to say so, becomes slightly jealous and doubtful of the romance. Rosalee faces the challenge of choosing between the movie star, who is hot but fake, and her less-than-charming skinny friend who has genuine feelings for her. Your intelligence doesn't need to be insulted by going on; surely you can figure out the rest of the plot.

The major problem with this film is that none of the characters are given any time to grow; the two male romantic leads often disappear from the screen for extended periods of time, and, as Rosalee begins bumbling around in her new settings of high culture, making all sorts of mistakes that are meant to make her look ignorant, she really just looks stupid. In one scene, she takes out her retainer at a fancy restaurant before she starts eating and doesn't realize she has made a social gaffe. When it is ever okay to take out your retainer and leave it on the table covered with spittle? I guess the message from the film is that blue-collar people from

small towns are inherently disgusting or something.

The audience never really gets to know why the best friend is pining over Rosalee either, and if anything, he seems to be constantly annoyed by her sentimentality and stupidity. The titular movie star falls for her as well, but there's also no real reason revealed for him doing so other than the fact that she has an "inner purity" that he somehow sees. Unfortunately, that inner purity seems a whole lot more like a serious mental defect to the audience.

Sometimes formulaic movies are tolerable if the leads have a charisma together, the writing is sharp and the performances have heart, such as in a film like *Notting Hill*; however, none of these elements are present in *Hamilton*. Bosworth doesn't have a spark with either of the men in the movie, the only writing that is witty are the parts where the script is mocking itself and all the performances are tepid at best.

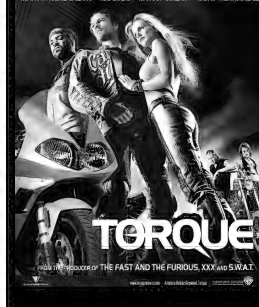
People hoping for a repeat of Kate Bosworth's last girly movie *Blue Crush*—which had a predictable, but smoother and more subtle plot line, cool surfing scenes and actors who cared—will be sorely disappointed. Hell, even the *Wedding Planner* was better than this.

This is the *Bad Boys II* of romantic comedies; it knows exactly what sort of stupid marks its trying to hit and hits them with an awkward self-awareness about how painfully retarded the entire thing is.



THE GATEWAY WANTS TO SEND YOU TO SEE...

MARTIN HENDERSON ICE CUBE MONET MAZUR JAY HERNANDEZ



## FREE STUFF

Biker Cary Ford (MARTIN HENDERSON) has returned to his hometown to reunite with his girlfriend Shane (MONET MAZUR) and take care of a little unfinished business. When he skipped town months ago, Ford was in possession of several motorcycles belonging to Henry (MATT SCHULZE), a ruthless drug dealer and leader of the Hellions biker gang. Now Henry's putting the squeeze on Ford in an attempt to retrieve the bikes, which have something a little more valuable than gas in their tanks.

The movie opens in Theatres 16 January, but we want you to see it early! Drop into the Gateway office in 3-04 SUB any time after 1pm on Thursday and tell the A&E editor the name of an Ice Cube song to receive a double guest pass to the promotional screening on Wednesday, 14 January.

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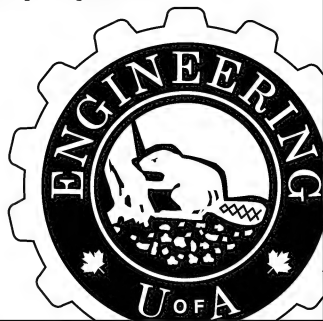
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# What is AP!RG?

The Alberta Public Interest Research Group, is a community-minded organization that is funded, directed, and run by students. AP!RG is dedicated to research, education, and action in the public interest and provides space and resources for Working Groups and other public interest activities.

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- climate change
- media and democracy
- fair trade
- war and racism
- gender issues
- workers' rights

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## THE DOWNFALL OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

At least when Western Civilization was crumbling in the past, there were people around to write songs about it. But as of late, pop music has become entirely devoid of any social comment at all, and nowhere is this more evident than in the once-conscious world of hip hop.

While hip hop has always had its share of fairly mindless rhymes, for a long while it has also enjoyed artists who carry a grave awareness of social realities. From Grandmaster Flash's "The Message" through to pretty much anything Chuck D and Public Enemy recorded, hip hop was one of the most aware and thought-provoking genres when it came to commenting on society—even if this comment usually never extended far beyond the plight of the black community. Even the eponymous NWA and their vitriolic frontman Ice Cube had, in their early work, valid social criticisms underneath the gang imagery and censored lyrics.

Alas, even Cube and his cohort Dr Dre have devolved into nothing more than parodies of their previous selves, content to pump out inane lyrics about how "gangsta" they are or produce the latest rapper with an obsession for his jewelry. Style has trumped substance once again.

Mainstream rap in particular suffers from an abundance of artists unwilling or unable to express anything other than an intense admiration for themselves or their desire to shake their, or possibly someone else's, booty. From 50 Cent's glorification of being a "P.I.M.P." to the sudden rise of "crunk," rap has focused entirely on partying, the average hip hop being broadcast over radio and TV outlets has all the substance and commentary of a sitcom laugh track, with the exception of being cleverly rhymed.

That said, there are still socially conscious artists out there. "Conscious" rappers from Blackalicious, Dilated Peoples and Jurassic 5 on the west coast, to stalwarts Public Enemy and younger acts like Talib Kweli and Mos Def in New York are making rap music that proves it is possible to combine rap's flashier sensibilities and bravado with social awareness. What little airplay these groups get, if any, generally focuses on their less political, more radio-friendly songs.

It is a sad day indeed when even a genre that has had a tradition of social consciousness like hip hop has its premier voices marginalized to make way for more flash. So long, society.



**Chasa De Sela**  
*The Living Road*  
Independent  
www.chasadesela.ca

**DAVE BERRY**  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

If you're ever in Mexico, sitting outside an aging villa, sipping wine during a sunset and lamenting over a long-lost love, you should hope that Chasa De Sela's latest album, *The Living Road*, is playing softly in the background.

De Sela, the New York-born, Mexican-raised, Montréal-based songstress, has crafted an album that beautifully captures both the melancholy and passion associated with falling love. Though she sings primarily in Spanish and French with the odd English song thrown in, her voice, in combination with the understated and melancholy strings, piano and worldly sounds that accompany her captures the spirit of a world-weary romantic so well you don't need to understand the words to know what she means.

It's by no means a perfect album; the songs that are in English, and presumably the others as well, don't contain the most thoughtful lyrics ever written and some songs go on a little longer than they should, but it is still as satisfying as a pleasant dream.

Overall, it is enough to make you wish you had a long-lost love to lament over and a good, stiff bottle of tequila to wash your tears down with.

## CULTURA OBSCURA



**STEVE LILLABUEN**  
Circulation Manager

Don't feel bad if you ate and drank too many elaborate meals over the winter season—the French have been doing the same thing professionally in Canada for close to 400 years.

Way back in 1606, Samuel de Champlain created L'Ordre du Bon Temps, which is roughly translated as Order of the Good Time. It was the first social club formed in North America and every member in turn assumed the stewardship of dinner and entertainment for an evening in honour of its members, which led to rivalry between the members as they tried to outdo each other in the hosting game. The Order is cited as one of the reasons why Champlain was successful in establishing colonies that survived the East coast winter: they forgot about their dreary lives in freezing cabins by consuming gallons of wine and preparing huge feasts.

If you ever find yourself in Halifax, look up the tourist bureau and get your free lifetime membership and certificate. It will look quite nice on your wall with its snazzy pictures of Champlain and some French Canadians getting drunk, as per usual.



The Gateway is now accepting applications for Arts & Entertainment volunteers. Successful candidates must demonstrate awesomeness, be able to make words go and like movies, music and the arts. To apply show up Thursdays at 5pm in 3-04 in SUB.

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# Mario, Zelda and Star Wars make a return in 2003 games

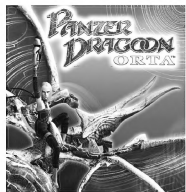
DAN  
KASSORA&E  
Commentary

## 4. MARIO KART: DOUBLE DASH!! (GAMECUBE)



2003 was a strange year for console video games; there were a plethora of good, finely crafted games that came out, but very few were truly great games worthy of sucking your will to do anything productive in favour of whittling your thumbs into blistered stumps in front of the TV. Still, certain games showed their greatness either through originality or through refining a well-established formula to perfection.

## 5. PANZER DRAGON ORTA (XBOX)



Sega's recreation of an on-rails shooter, Panzer Dragoon Orta was played by a grand total of about six people before teetering off to obscurity. Released in January, this game was graphically beautiful and perfected a style of gameplay that has become rare in recent years. If you can find it, it is well worth the dime.

There isn't too much innovation going on in Nintendo's newest race game *Mario Kart: Double Dash!!*. The addition of a second rider to each Kart doesn't change the game play on a fundamental level and in single player, the game is a tad boring. However, with a group of friends, this is the most thoroughly enjoyable multiplayer game released in 2003. In addition to four-player races, playing a grand prix against the computer while cooperating with a partner adds another layer to the game.

## 3. PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE SANDS OF TIME (PS2, GAMECUBE, XBOX)

Not only does *The Sands of Time* recapture what made the original *Prince of Persia* fun to play in the late '80s, it betters it in almost every way possible. The developers at Ubi Soft Montréal made the main character easy to control while engaging in even the most amazing acrobatic feats such as running up walls or vaulting over the head of enemies. What really made this game great were the little touches, like the ability to have your

MSN-like friends list on if you have the Xbox live service. Finally, you can chat like a 14-year-old girl who's gone crazy for emotions and entertain yourself with an endless maze game at the same time.

## 2. THE LEGEND OF ZELDA: THE WIND WAKER (GAMECUBE)



Although not as good as its 1998 N64 prequel *Ocarina of Time*, *The Wind Waker* made some bold steps for the Zelda franchise. Its cell-shaded appearance (which makes the game look like a cartoon) could have backfired, making the entire game feel stupid, but the final product animates so fluidly, it looks perfect. The gameplay, mostly carried over from *Ocarina*, is a fun as it was in '98, and the only real flaw is that the game is a tad easy.

## 1. STAR WARS: KNIGHTS OF THE OLD REPUBLIC (XBOX)

Edmonton-developed *Knights of the Old Republic* is probably the first game to truly bridge the gap between open-ended PC RPGs and linear, character-driven console RPGs. While there is a strong and decently linear story here, the game also allows you to develop and replay your character in a myriad of good and evil ways. Add this to a cool lightside/darkside gameplay system and the fact that this is the best Star Wars story since 1983, and you've got yourself the best game of 2003.

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- **English/Comparative Literature**  
Thursday, January 29, 2004; 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.  
Guest speakers from the University of Alberta and more... TBA
- **Economics**  
Tuesday, February 3, 2004; 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.  
Guest speakers from Advanis & more... TBA
- **Political Science**  
Thursday, February 5, 2004; 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.  
Guest speakers from Alberta Public Interest Research Group, Frame 30 Productions, Health Sciences Assoc. of Alberta, Environment Canada & more... TBA

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# Surfing film high in substance, style

## Step into Liquid

Directed by Dana Brown  
Starring Ken Collins, Kelly Slater,  
Taj Burrow, Jesse Brad Billauer and  
narrated by Dana Brown  
New Visual Entertainment  
[www.stepintoliquid.com](http://www.stepintoliquid.com)

JORDAN ABEL  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

"Surfing is not a lifestyle ... it is life, and the style is optional," remarks the somber voice of narrator/director Dana Brown over the opening scenes of the documentary-style surfing film, *Step into Liquid*. From these first lines, it becomes apparent that this film is anything but a clichéd look at the pop-cultural aspect of surfing; rather, it's an in-depth study of the life and serenity that all surfers it studies seem to share.

*Step into Liquid* explores the spiritual life of surfing and features a diverse cast that ranges from a custodian who has surfed everyday for close to 30 years to a world-champion surfer named Kelly Slater. The film revolves around the touching, real-life story of the now-paralyzed wave-rider Jesse Brad Billauer. Brown uses this tale to explore the idea that seeking out the biggest waves and being the best on the beach isn't really what surfing is about—it's about being one with nature and adoring the ocean tides.

In a very unexpected way, the audience is drawn into the idea that



surfing can be a religiously enlightening experience as Brown demystifies the stereotypes of stoner-mentality surfers. In one particularly touching scene, Brown reveals several young Protestant and Catholic children in Ireland surfing together. The religious biases that these children were raised with are abolished by the community of surfing, their common love of the sport giving them reason enough to become friends.

Aside from the poignant message that the documentary carries, one of the most impressive things about *Step into Liquid* is the brilliant cinematography, highlighted by visually

spectacular camera angles and beautiful coastal scenery. Seeing 70-foot waves crashing right before you is among the most thrilling moments on film you'll ever encounter. Brown's direction is incredible and his equal emphasis on the human and natural elements delivers his message that it's "all about the wave" with breathtaking grace.

*Step into Liquid* is a wonderful documentary full of coastal colour and vibrant characters. There isn't a dull moment in its entirety and with its awe-inspiring cinematography, even the most removed surfing fan is sure to enjoy the film.

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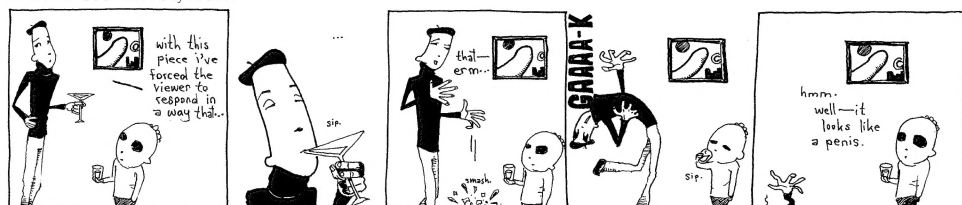


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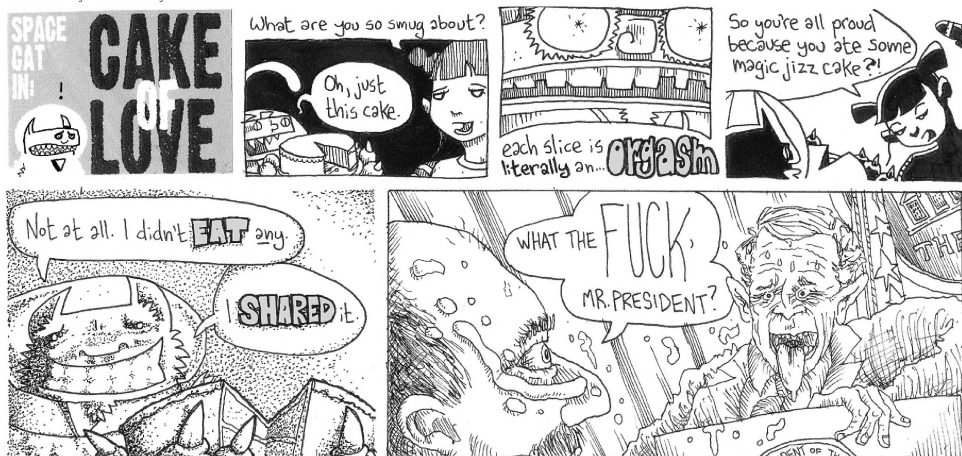
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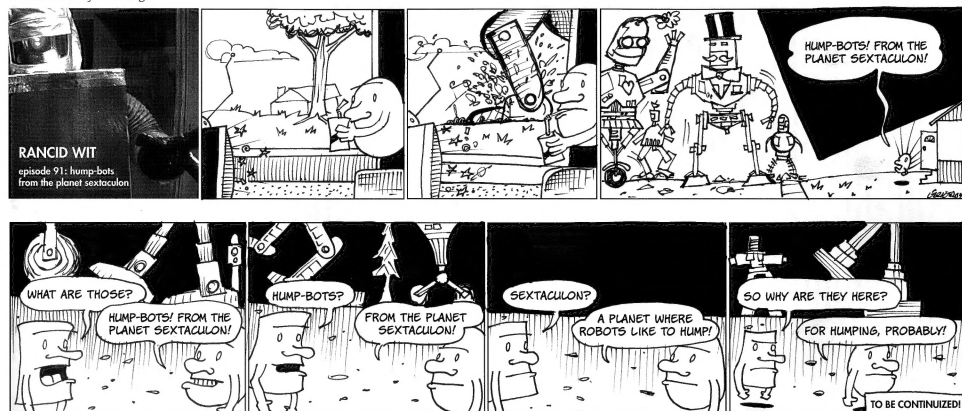
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